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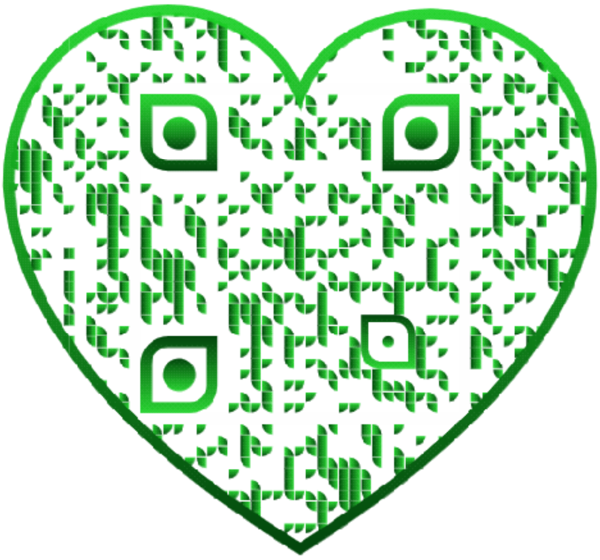

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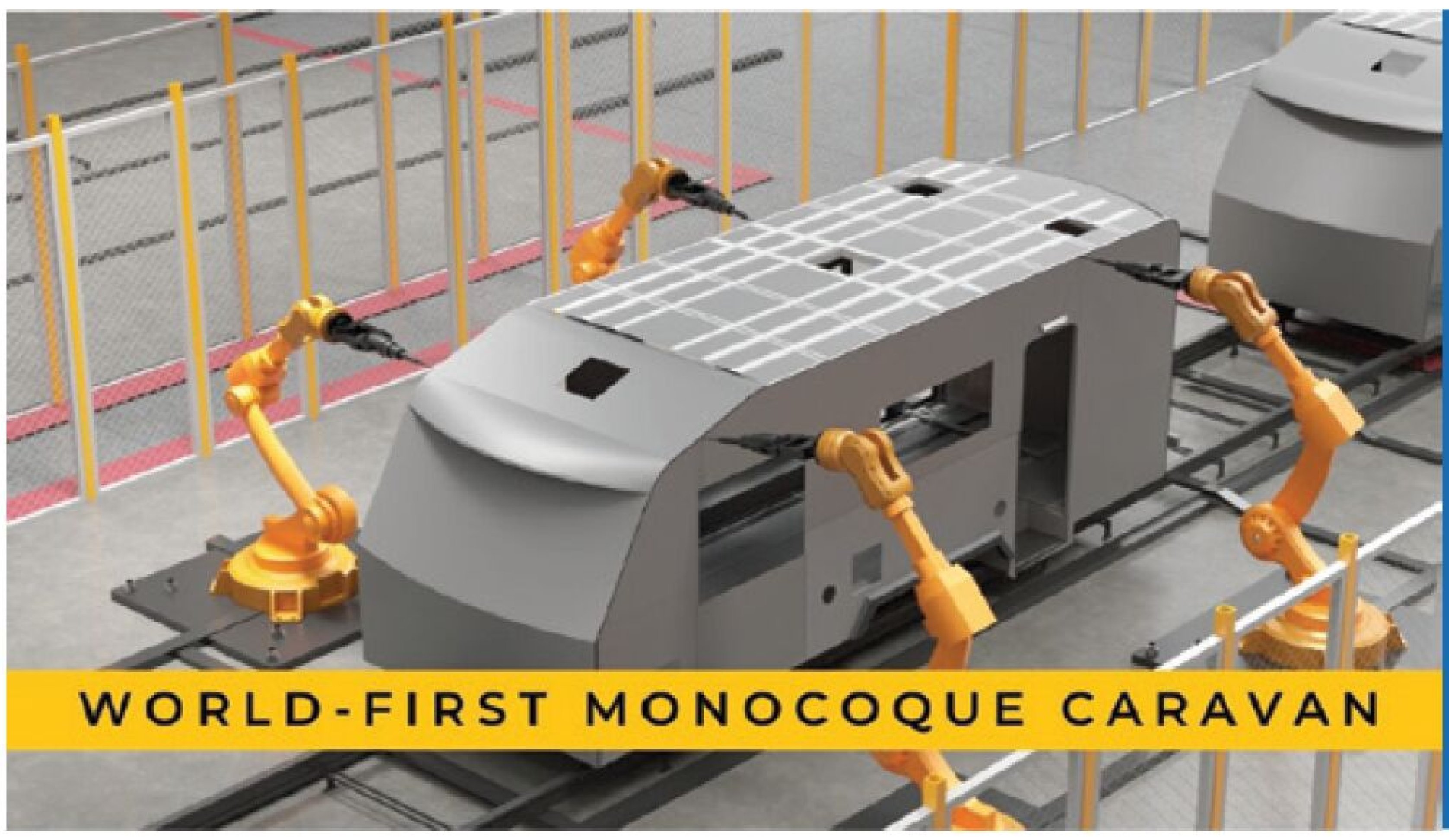
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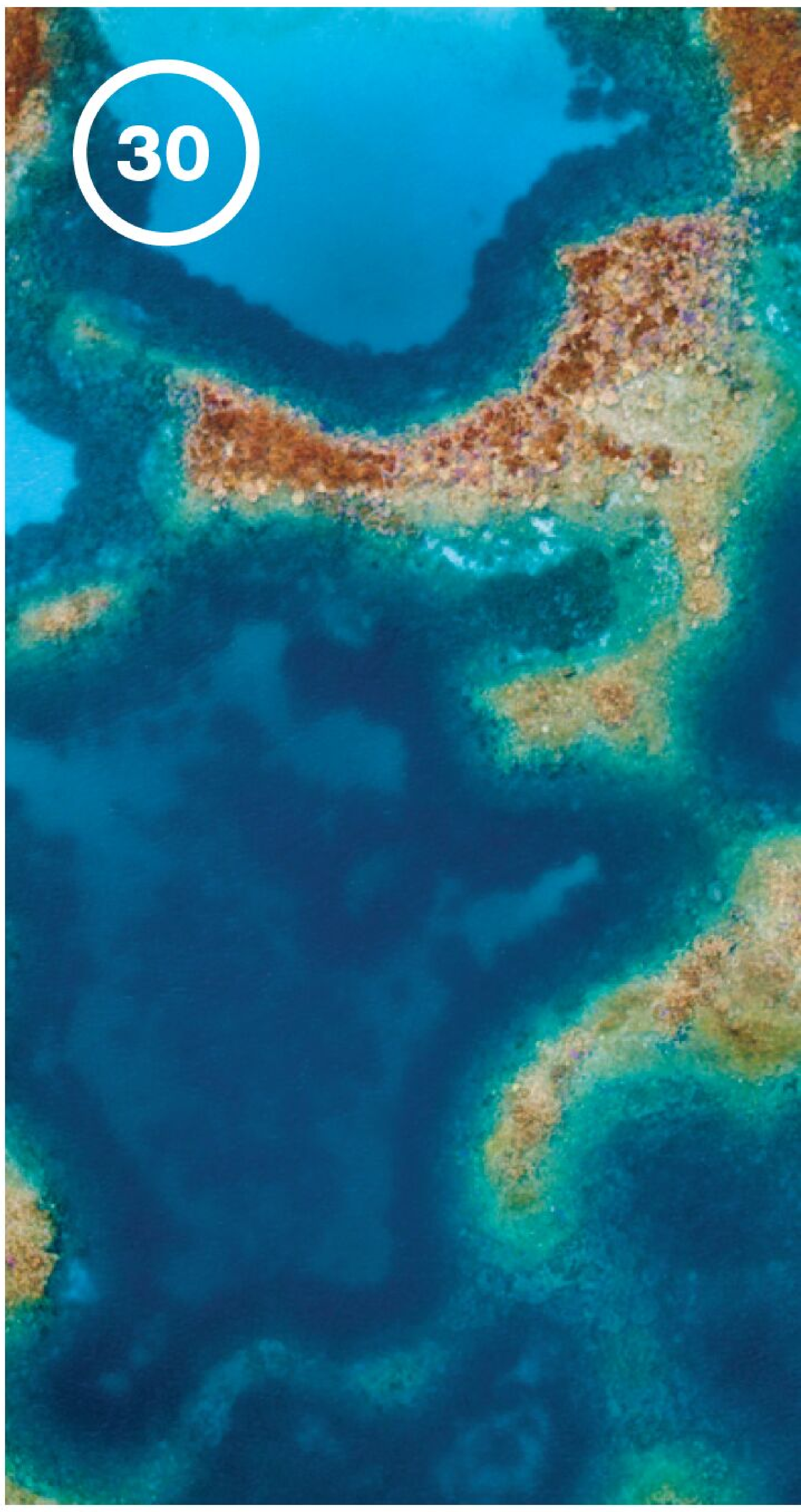
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From the editor

It's time for fun in the sun this summer!

Almonta Beach, Coffin Bay National Park. Image © Sarah Byden; Vinnie Preston

Can you believe we're already at the end of another year? And what a year it's been! I don't know about you, but this year has both flown and felt like it would never end. Yet, here we are: the weather is warming up, the sun is shining, the days are longer, and the relief and excitement of a summer holiday can be felt around every corner.

I'm very excited to bring you another edition of *Caravanning Australia*. These pages are filled with summer adventures, road trip inspiration, and all you'll ever need to plan your next great escape. So, read on to see where you should be heading next!

FEATURED TRAVEL

Nothing beats an Aussie summer. Down south, the sun is shining, the surf is pumping, and your swimmers (or bathers, or togs, or cossies!) become a mandatory uniform. Up north, the wet season is humid and the weather is moody, but the rainforest comes alive and the off-season means you've got plenty of space to yourself. Whether you like to park by the ocean, spend time in the countryside, or opt for a tropical adventure, fuelling your summertime fun is easy thanks to the abundance of fruit available around the nation. Feel like topping your pancakes with some farm-fresh strawberries before hitting the waves? Or perhaps you'd rather a mango to snack on as you watch the storms roll in? Whatever you fancy, we've got you covered (page 12).

4WD + OFF-ROAD

Itching to go off-road? This edition, we bring you 10 things you need to know about four-wheel driving to keep you comfortable and out of trouble on your next off-road adventure (page 22).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Experience Western Australia's very best on the Indian Ocean Drive – the ultimate summer road trip (page 30). Meandering along the incredible Turquoise and Coral coasts from Perth up to Geraldton, this is the ideal way to soak up summer. Think: lazy beach days, melt-in-your mouth seafood, unique natural wonders and plenty of fun in the sun. Along this stretch of pristine coastline, the bright-blue waves lap at the white sand, the terracotta soil lines the winding highway, and the landscape feels ancient and almighty. Whether you tackle the journey slow and steady over a week, or surf down the coast in a multi-day sprint, you're bound to have the summer road trip of a lifetime!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia's coastline is a beach lover's paradise, so this edition we bring you the best beaches in the state (page 40)! Framed by dramatic wildlife and crystal clear waters, these beaches are ideal for both family-friendly getaways and adventure-fuelled experiences. Each beach offers its own unique charm – from vibrant marine life, to breathtaking sunsets – making them must-visit destinations for sunseekers.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ah, the Northern Territory – one of the most beautiful destinations in all of Australia! Sure, Queensland has the tropics, New South Wales is home to some ripper beaches, Tassie is a nature lover's paradise, Western Australia is vast and almighty, Victoria is home to our buzzing coffee capital, and Canberra is full of politicians (we still love you, Canberra!) … but the Northern Territory? There's something magical about the Top End. Here, the landscape feels all-knowing and wise, with sacred sites and monolithic rocks. The desert's ruby red soil against the azure skies makes for an epic contrast, and the abundance of natural beauty – lush rainforests, picture-perfect beaches, and heritage-listed natural wonders – is completely and utterly mesmerising. So, whip out the camera and get exploring! Our top 10 favourite views in the Top End can be found on page 54.

QUEENSLAND

Running 1800 kilometres from the Gold Coast to Cairns, the Pacific Coast Way hugs one of the most naturally endowed coastlines on Earth. It's truly a highway to heaven (page 60). Along the way, you will pass surfing meccas where the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean crash onto white shorelines. There are laidback hinterland towns with lovingly restored pubs surrounded by lush forest, and national parks filled with waterfalls, rock pools, birdsong and hiking trails. Offshore, there are reef-fringed islands, and further north are rolling farmlands and world-class resorts. The natural magnetism of this route has inspired many a sea change.

Wineglass Bay.
Image © Chad Dewson

NEW SOUTH WALES + AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

This summer, embark on an unforgettable journey along the North Coast of New South Wales, where pristine landscapes, vibrant wildlife and rich Indigenous heritage meet in spectacular fashion. Stretching from Newcastle all the way up to Byron Bay, this nature-filled road trip is sure to have you feeling more and more relaxed with every twist of the road (page 76).

VICTORIA

For years, tourists from all corners have flocked to the Great Ocean Road, not realising that they're narrowly missing one of Australia's – if not the world's – great up-and-coming wine regions: the Bellarine Peninsula (page 86). Just east of the Great Ocean Road, the Bellarine Peninsula has wild, undeveloped coastlines of its own on one side, with vineyards tumbling down hillsides into Port Phillip Bay on the other. One of the main reasons the Bellarine Peninsula has become a gastronomic hub is its agricultural heritage. The cool climate, sea breezes and rich soils create ideal growing conditions. A focus on local, seasonal produce is an ethos of the local scene. Many restaurants emphasise sustainability, working directly with local farmers and producers to reduce food miles, and ensure that menus reflect the best the region has to offer.

TASMANIA

If visiting Tasmania is on your bucket list, then you're sure to be familiar with Freycinet National Park and its natural wonders. Known for its stunning views, unbeatable walking tracks and incredible nature, a few days in Freycinet National Park is sure to have you feeling more connected to nature than ever (page 96).

Florence Falls, Litchifeld National Park. Image © Tourism NT; Joshua Griffen

Turners Beach Berry Patch. Image © Tourism Australia

AND MORE

With so much to see and do across our beautiful country, the prospect of financing your great Australian caravanning adventure can be daunting. On page 102, we take a look budgets, cost-saving ideas and financing to help you hit the road sooner.

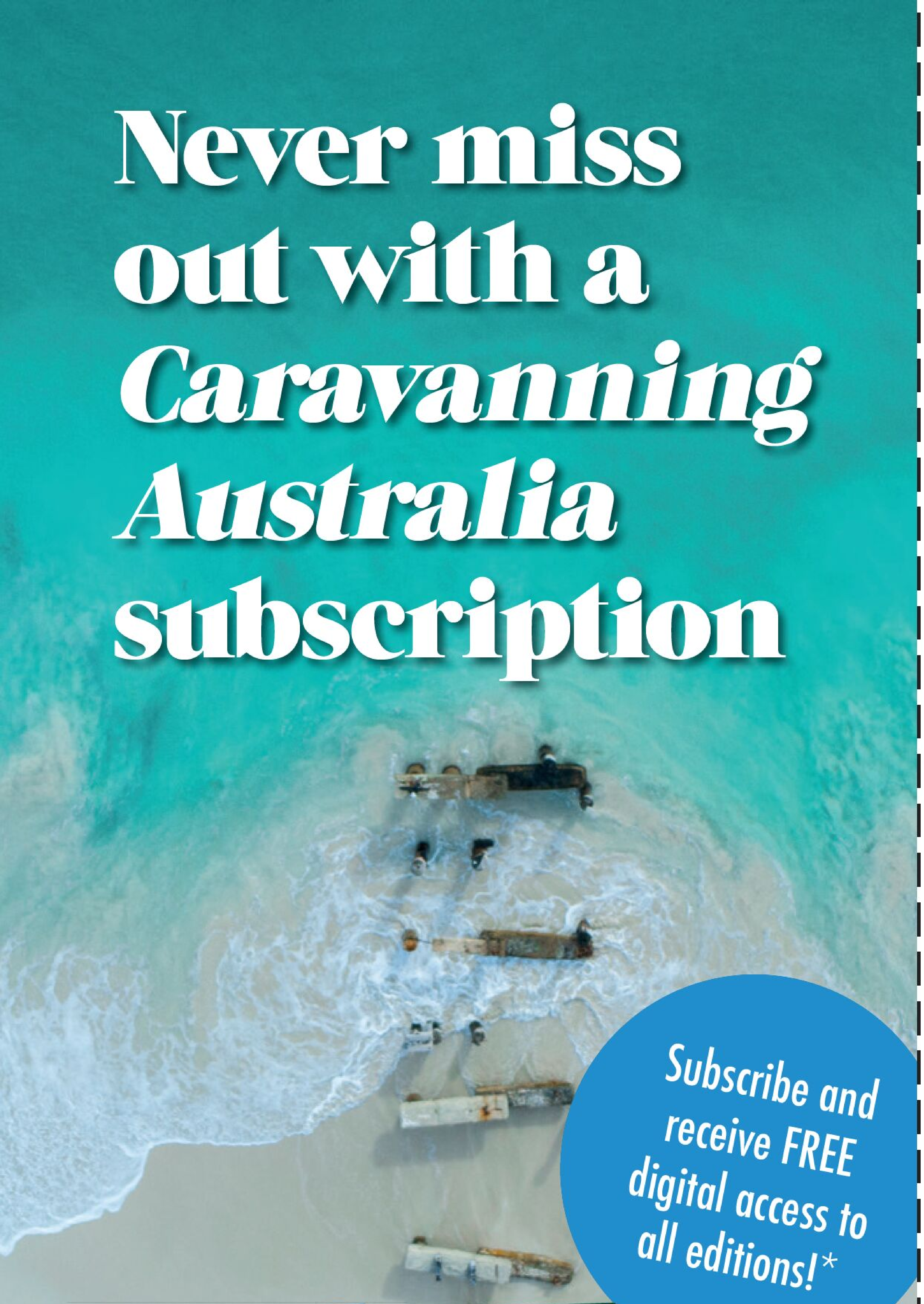
This edition, we also take a look at off-road caravans and their many benefits – the biggest one being the freedom they offer travellers (page 112). We also take a look at the must-have accessories on the market that will revolutionise your rig (page 120).

As the summer season brings longer days and more outdoor activities, it's essential to stay vigilant about safety. From fire safety, to preparing for seasonal storms and wet road conditions, understanding and implementing these precautions can make all the difference. Whether it's ensuring you have an emergency plan in place or driving cautiously during unexpected summer rains, we bring you tips that can help keep your family and community safe during the warm months (page 132).

Whatever you decide to do this summer, and wherever you end up exploring, all of us here at *Caravanning Australia* wish you happy and safe travels! Thank you for continuing to share your love of our country with us. We can't wait to bring you even more travel inspiration and tips in 2025! ↙

Giulia Heppell

EDITOR



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Caravanning Australia Recommends

A round-up of some of the latest and greatest gadgets and gear to ensure a smooth journey.

Love Nightshift

DREAM ON

Are you one of the unlucky ones who finds themselves wide awake at the crack of dawn, even on holiday? Back home, you might have a set of block-out blinds in your bedroom to keep the sunrise out, but it's trickier to achieve darkness in your van. That's why you need a Love Nightshift Luxury Sleep Mask, which is designed to block out 100 per cent of light. It achieves this with the help of a shaped nose area, a contoured eye area, soft memory foam padding and an adjustable elastic strap. Sweet dreams!

RRP: $69

lovenightshift.com.au

STAY SAFE AND HYDRATE

If you sometimes find that water from other towns and cities tastes a little less palatable than the water back home, you'll want to invest in a RapidPure Purifier + Upright Straw for your water bottle. This nifty item will attach to most wide-mouthed drink bottles to purify your water as you drink, without the need to press, squeeze, prime or backflush. Drink with abandon as you stay safe from 99 per cent of viruses, bacteria and parasites, and enjoy better taste and odour.

RRP: $85

wildearth.com.au

SLEEP BUG-FREE

Does the prospect of encountering the creepy-crawlies of the night keep you from enjoying the great outdoors after sunset? The folk at Alton share your concerns! The company is the 2024 Australian Good Design Award Winner for Excellence in Design and Innovation for its Ultralight Bug Net Tent. The tent is easy to set up and very breathable, and ensures you don't have to share your bed with any small unwanted guests. With a lifetime warranty and construction to withstand rugged conditions, the Ultralight Bug Net Tent is perfect for hiking, camping and pitching beside your caravan while stargazing!

RRP: $189.99

altongoods.com

BALANCE YOUR BEVVY

There's nothing better than a decadent picnic in a beautiful park, complete with all the fresh local produce you've sourced in your travels. The mood can quickly sour, however, when your wine glass topples over in the grass. Never fear: the Glass on the Grass slide-on coasters are here to save the day! Simply slide the base of your wine glass into the coaster and you're ready to balance your beverage on grass, pebbles, sand, and outdoor furniture. These colourful coasters are designed and made in Australia from an eco-friendly compound made from bamboo and partially recycled materials, and with no production waste.

RRP: $36 for a set of four

glassonthegrass.com

GOGIRL
DON'T TAKE LIFE SITTING DOWN

ANSWER THE CALL OF NATURE

While undertaking some of the incredible hikes Australia has to offer, it's important to consider the environment when it comes to your calls of nature. Faecal waste should be carried out with you for minimal impact, but 'number ones' are safe to leave in the bush! This can be a little difficult, however, for travellers who need to pee sitting down. Enter the GoGirl female urination device, which allows all adventurers to pee standing up. GoGirl is compact and fits in your day pack, pocket or glove compartment. It's made with a flexible, medical-grade silicone and can be washed and reused.

RRP: $29.99

bcf.com.au

SIT SUSTAINABLY

We love all things eco-friendly here at *Caravanning Australia* HQ! We especially love it when sustainable products help us on our adventures, like the Nemo Chipper Reclaimed Closed-cell Foam Seat. This lightweight and foldable seat cushion is made entirely from reclaimed and remoulded PE foam scraps sourced from waste generated by sleeping pad production. The seat's engineered contours make for a soft kneeling or sitting surface, and offers protection from the cold ground. The seat comes with a removable loop for hanging, lashing, or staking in place, and there is also a two-year warranty.

RRP: $34.95

ozbackcountry.com.au

ORGANISE YOUR CAMP

Picture this: you've hiked to the top of a mountain, pitched your tent and cooked up a hearty dinner. Now you're ready for bed, but as you snuggle into your cosy tent, you find yourself jostling for space in a battle with your belongings. What your shoes, food items, clothes, bags, and other important possessions really need is a tent of their own! Luckily, this exists. The CAMPYRE Tent & RV Camping Organiser with Zippered Flap is like a cross between a tent and a cupboard, with nine storage shelves for all your stuff, and a zip-up flap to keep it safe from the rain and critters.

RRP: $382

au.ninefit.com

Fixed versus automatic CPAP machines: Which one is right for you?

Choosing between a fixed-pressure CPAP and an automatic CPAP (APAP) machine is crucial for effective sleep apnoea treatment. Here's a friendly guide to help you figure out what type might suit you best.

A fixed-pressure CPAP machine provides a steady set pressure all night long. This pressure is determined during a sleep study and is adjusted by your healthcare provider to keep your airway open. The main advantage? Consistency. Fixed CPAP machines are usually more budget-friendly, making them a solid choice if you're watching your spending; however, they can be less flexible. If your therapy needs changing – due to weight fluctuations, alcohol consumption or different sleeping positions – you might need to adjust the pressure manually. This usually means a visit to your healthcare provider or potentially another sleep study, which can be a hassle and might add extra costs. Plus, the constant pressure might sometimes feel too high if a lower setting would suffice.

On the other hand, an APAP machine automatically adjusts the pressure throughout the night based on your breathing patterns. It ramps up when it detects apnoeas and lowers when your breathing returns to normal. This means a more customised and potentially comfortable experience; however, APAP machines generally come with a higher price tag, and their constant adjusting to various disturbances might also lead to occasional sleep interruptions.

Ultimately, the choice between a fixed-pressure CPAP and an APAP comes down to what fits your lifestyle and needs best. If you're after a straightforward, cost-effective option that provides consistent therapy, a fixed-pressure CPAP might be ideal. It's simple and reliable, and perfect for those who prefer a set-and-forget approach. In contrast, if you're looking for a more adaptable solution that adjusts to your breathing patterns throughout the night, an APAP might be worth the extra investment. It offers flexibility and personalised comfort, making it a great choice if you're willing to spend a bit more for a tailored therapy experience.

At CPAP Direct, choosing the right CPAP machine is a top priority. Its team of experts is here to help you find the perfect fit, whether you're leaning towards a fixed CPAP for its steady pressure, or an APAP for its adaptable settings. With a wide range of equipment and personalised support, CPAP Direct ensures you get exactly what you need to make your therapy effective and comfortable. The company's goal is to make your CPAP experience as smooth and tailored as possible.

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Frosty Mango. Image © Tourism Queensland

Pick your way through summer

BY RUBY O'BRIEN

Gear up for a summer full of fun with our seasonal fruit-picking guide.

Turners Beach Berry Patch, Tasmania. Image © Tourism Australia

Nothing beats an Aussie summer. Down south, the sun is shining, the surf is pumping, and your swimmers (or bathers, or togs, or cossies!) become a mandatory uniform. Up north, the wet season is humid and the weather is moody, but the rainforest comes alive and the off season means you've got plenty of space to yourself. Whether you like to park up by the ocean, spend time in the countryside, or opt for a tropical adventure, fuelling your summertime adventures is easy thanks to the abundance of fruit available around the nation. Feel like topping your pancakes with some farm-fresh strawberries before hitting the waves? Or perhaps you'd rather a mango to snack on as you watch the thunder roll in? Whatever your fancy, we've got you covered.

Turners Beach Berry Patch, Tasmania. Image © Tourism Australia

BERRIES

The humble berry is as versatile as it comes. Whether you like raspberries on top of your Weet-Bix, strawberries in a smoothie, or blueberries to snack on during your road trip, then Tasmania and Victoria are where you're going to find the freshest of fresh this summer.

Our little Island State is often forgotten about when we think of a warm-weather holiday, but summer is actually one of the best times to visit Tassie. Hobart's arts and culture scene comes alive in the heat, and the local breweries are packed with some of the best craft beer and cider in the country. Spend hours perusing the unique exhibits at Mona, enjoy a picnic in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, or browse local (and often delicious) goods at the Salamanca Market. If you'd prefer to spend your summer in Tassie away from the crowds, lace up your hiking boots and enjoy walking on one of the state's 850-plus walking trails, stroll through the purple lavender fields dotted around the state, head on a ferry to explore Bruny Island, or opt for some berry picking!

If you're keen to get your berry picking on, Old Beach Berries is a great place to start. It's less than 30 minutes from Hobart, making it the perfect daytrip if you're staying near the city. In 2019, Cathryn and David stumbled across a farm for sale, moved in, and became blueberry farmers overnight! Old Beach Berries grows its produce organically, doesn't harm any insects during growth or harvest, and doesn't spray its produce with any nasty chemicals. Picking season is from January to March (depending on how the season is going), but frozen berries and homemade blueberry products – such as blueberry jams, a blueberry soy sauce, dried blueberries and even a blueberry vinegar – can be purchased year-round.

Up north, only 15 minutes east of Devonport, Turners Beach Berry Patch is a family-run berry farm, shop and licensed cafe. Enjoy picking your own blueberries, raspberries and strawberries from November onwards, before heading to the cafe to reward your hard work. Enjoy freshly made woodfired pizzas with a glass

Blue Sky Produce, Queensland. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

of Tassie wine, or munch on brekkie favourites with an iced latte to beat the heat. There's also homemade berry ice cream on offer – perfect for dessert!

If you're near Launceston and feel like getting your berry fix, head 30 minutes north to Crestview Blueberries in Lilydale. The 2025 picking season will be a first for new owners Liz and Dane, who originally hail from Brisbane – but don't worry, the previous owners, who operated the farm for 32 seasons, have assured the farm's very loyal berry pickers that the farm is in excellent hands!

In Victoria, summer is synonymous with the Great Ocean Road. From big surf breaks at Bells Beach, where famous wave-riders from all over the world compete, to iconic landmarks like the Twelve Apostles, the Great Ocean Road is arguably the best place in Victoria (or even Australia!) to soak up summer. If you're in the mood for some raspberries during your Great Ocean Road adventures, Pennyroyal Raspberry Farm & Cidery in Murroon, 30 minutes north of Lorne, is a great place to spend an afternoon. From December onwards, visit here to pick your own raspberries and blackberries. There's also a cafe serving delicious cheese boards with local preserves, as well as a small cidery. There are even some alpacas for sale too, if that's on your Christmas wish list.

TROPICAL FRUIT

Australia's vast landscape and varied climate means that every kind of summer adventure is on the cards. If you're sick of the constant sunshine, but are still a sucker for the heat, then the tropics are calling your name. 'Summer' looks very different in Far North Queensland, where the wet season's rains turn the landscape dark and stormy. Here, the rainforest's viridescent foliage is as lush as ever, and the lightning illuminates the skies in an epic display. It's truly a sight to behold! Of course, the tropics at this time of year also means that there's a plethora of tropical fruit on offer. Delicious mangoes, pineapples, passionfruit, lychees and bananas are abundant in the wet season. While most growers of these fruits don't offer pick-your-own services (they're tricky to pick!), there are plenty of places to go and enjoy them.

For those mad about mangoes, head to Blue Sky Produce, about an hour inland from Cairns, right near the town of Mareeba. The farm produces avocados and limes alongside its delicious mangoes, and is a perfect place to stop to pick up some fruit for your travels. If you'd prefer to do less produce picking and more meal eating, nearby Skybury Cafe & Roastery in Paddys Green has papaya-filled spicy Thai salads, as well as a 'bush benedict', which is a native spice-infused take on a traditional eggs Benny. Yum!

If you're still after more of a mango fix, Frosty Mango, about an hour north of Townsville along the Bruce Highway, has some of the best ice cream in the country, offering up homemade mango ice cream that will no doubt keep the kids quiet in the backseat (for a few minutes, at least!). While you can't pick any of your own produce here, you can stretch your legs and stroll through Frosty Mango's unique orchards full of tropical and rare fruits. In summer, you'll be treated to not only mangoes, but also mulberries, lychees, Brazilian cherries, black sapotes, starfruits, kumquats, star apples, pawpaws, wampees, coconuts, and rambutans. Feel free to purchase some unique varieties if you want to do a fun taste test!

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For the pineapple, banana and passionfruit fanatics, head to Rusty's Markets in Cairns. The beloved market has been operating since 1975, and features over 180 stalls full of fresh, tropical produce, as well as flowers, fashion, jewellery, bespoke gifts, and coffee.

APPLES AND STONE FRUIT

Summer in New South Wales is nothing short of epic – funky markets, music festivals, and picture-perfect beaches straight off a postcard make the warm-weather adventures endless. No matter whether you Zen out in Byron Bay, enjoy the rugged landscape on a hike in the Blue Mountains, go wild at the Tamworth Country Music Festival, or cruise down the Central Coast, there's something for everyone in this neck of the woods. To top it all off, summertime is when stone fruit are ripe and ready to harvest. Yum!

Head to Cedar Creek Orchard, 50 minutes north-west of Wollongong or 40 minutes south-west of Campbelltown, to enjoy the juiciest nectarines and peaches, as well as apples. The orchard has been owned and operated by the Slim family for four generations. It all started with apple trees in the 1940s, and has now expanded to also include peaches, nectarines and persimmons. In total, the orchard is home to around 23,000 trees! Come here in the summertime to pick your own stone fruit, before taking time to peruse the goods in the adjoining shed, where apple juice, local honey and fresh fruit are sold. If you're still itching for more, Glenbernie Orchard is only an hour away (or roughly 30 minutes north of Wollongong). Since the 1950s, the sixth-generation, family-owned orchard has been growing produce. More recently, the family has also developed its own award-winning cider.

If you're after something a little sweeter, opt for some cherry picking! Back down in Victoria, CherryHill Orchards, 90 minutes from Melbourne in the Yarra Valley, is a perfect place to stock up on farm-fresh cherries before hitting up the Dandenong Ranges. While here, peruse quirky antique shops, admire sweeping views of metropolitan Melbourne below, and even hitch a ride on *Puffing Billy* (all while snacking on cherries, of course!). ↙

Glenbernie Orchard, New South Wales. Image © Destination NSW

CherryHill Orchards, Victoria. Image © Tourism Australia; Visit Victoria

BOTTEGA
COFFEE

Bottega Coffee: pioneering sustainability in the Australian coffee market

In a time when sustainability is paramount, Bottega Coffee has positioned itself on the frontlines of the battle for sustainable and convenient coffee by introducing easy-serving espresso (ESE) paper biodegradable pods – a game changer for eco-conscious coffee lovers!

Bottega Coffee's biodegradable pods are crafted from natural, compostable materials, ensuring that your coffee habit leaves a minimal environmental footprint. Unlike traditional plastic or aluminium pods, these paper-based alternatives break down naturally, reducing waste and promoting a greener planet.

The company's machines come from Aroma – a company located in Italy that has welcomed Bottega Coffee to share knowledge and experience in the ESE paper pod industry. These stunning machines provide a compact yet striking addition to any kitchen, regardless of space limitations.

Bottega Coffee's commitment to quality is unwavering. Each pod is filled with premium coffee, delivering a rich and satisfying brew in every cup. The high-quality machines make for the perfect combination, introducing an uncompromising blend of engineering and sustainability to the Australian market.

By choosing Bottega Coffee, Australians can enjoy their favourite beverage guilt-free, knowing they are supporting a brand that values sustainability and quality.

Join the movement and savour the future of coffee with Bottega Coffee's biodegradable pods.

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ARB EARTH CAMPER

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The Earth Camper pioneers ARB's bold entry into the recreational vehicle (RV) industry. Culminating almost 50 years of knowledge & experience in the 4×4 space, we have integrated our skillset across each of our product categories to showcase the very best ARB has to offer, delivering one extremely capable, compact and feature packed off road camper trailer.

With ARB's pursuit of the highest tier in both quality and functionality, you can depend on the Earth Camper to perform at the highest level – no matter where you take it.

LEARN MORE
www.arb.com.au/earth-camper

4X4 ACCESSORIES

ARB Earth Camper: the ultimate off-road companion for every adventure

Caravanning in Australia offers some of the most spectacular scenery and remote destinations in the world. From the red sands of the outback, to lush coastal forests and rugged mountain trails, the options for exploration are endless. For those who desire true off-road freedom and self-sufficiency, ARB's Earth Camper is a game changer in the world of off-road caravanning – engineered to follow you anywhere, no matter how rough the terrain or how remote the destination.

Purpose-built for any adventure

When it comes to off-road travel, not all campers are created equal. ARB's Earth Camper is built tough, with a focus on off-road durability, functionality and comfort, ensuring it can handle Australia's harshest environments. The Earth Camper's robust build quality and clever design give you the confidence to tackle everything from rocky mountain tracks to sandy desert dunes. With ARB's renowned commitment to high-performance engineering, this camper is as tough as they come.

Superior off-road capability

One of the stand-out features of the Earth Camper is its premium off-road capability. ARB has designed its own advanced suspension and chassis technology to ensure that the camper tows like a dream, and can handle uneven terrains and off-road driving conditions with ease. The heavy-duty independent trailing arm suspension system, complete with high-quality Old Man Emu shock absorbers and durable coil springs, allows the camper to glide smoothly over varied terrains without compromising the comfort of your ride.

The high ground clearance and robust underbody protection further enhance its off-road credentials, ensuring that sharp rocks, tree branches and uneven terrain don't damage essential components. Paired with quality Maxxis all-terrain off-road tyres, the Earth Camper maintains traction and stability, allowing you to access more remote, rugged campsites that are out of reach for typical campers.

Built for self-sufficiency

When you're miles away from civilisation, self-sufficiency is essential. ARB has integrated features into the Earth Camper that cater to extended stays. Equipped with a high-capacity potable water tank, propane gas cooking, electric water pump, efficient solar panel system, and a lithium battery set-up, you'll have all the resources needed for off-grid adventures.

The camper's water tank has enough capacity to support drinking, cooking and outdoor showers (optional extra) over multiple days. The onboard solar panel harnesses the power of the sun, replenishing your battery system to keep your lights, refrigeration and electronic devices running without needing to return to civilisation to recharge. With a battery bank and REDARC charging system designed for extended use, the Earth Camper ensures you have reliable power to run all your essential equipment, even in the most remote areas.

Luxury meets functionality

While the Earth Camper is built to withstand the toughest environments, ARB has ensured that comfort is never compromised. The spacious sleeping area can accommodate two adults in a comfortable queen-sized bed, and with smart storage solutions throughout the cabin, you'll have ample space for gear and personal belongings. Inside the camper, you'll find an array of well-thought-out features that make off-road living as enjoyable as it is adventurous. The fold-out floor and rear tent area with extending table lets you dine inside when the weather is less than accommodating, and gives you an internal space to set up the children's camp bed.

An effective stainless-steel kitchen set-up comes equipped with a large bench space, a quality gas stove, a sink, and a 96-litre dual-zone fridge/freezer, allowing you to prepare meals in comfort – whether you're on the beach or deep in the bush.

Additionally, the integrated awning system provides shaded outdoor living space, creating the perfect spot to relax and enjoy your surroundings while being protected from the elements.

Innovation at its core

What sets the ARB Earth Camper apart is the emphasis on innovation and ease of use. The single-piece tubular steel exoskeleton chassis provides superior structural strength and torsional stiffness. With a choice of overnight or touring mode, setting up camp is quick and hassle-free, and can be completed in a matter of minutes, giving you more time to enjoy the adventure. With ARB's focus on user-friendly operation, you don't need to spend hours working on complicated set-ups – simply arrive, set up and relax.

Follow you anywhere

Unlike traditional caravans that are limited by their on-road/semi-off-road capabilities, the Earth Camper offers unparalleled freedom, giving you access to some of the most remote and breathtaking landscapes in Australia. Whether you're traversing the Simpson Desert, camping along the Great Ocean Road, or heading deep into the Kimberley, the Earth Camper is designed to follow you anywhere.

Why ARB?

When deciding on your next camper trailer, ARB stands as the clear choice. As a leader in off-road accessories and equipment, ARB's decades of expertise have culminated in the Earth Camper – a rugged, reliable companion for any adventure.

In addition to its impressive features, buying an Earth Camper means you also gain access to ARB's extensive nationwide after-sales support network. Whether you're embarking on a weekend escape or a long-term journey through Australia's remote wilderness, you can travel with peace of mind knowing that help is always close by. With ARB's Earth Camper, the beauty of the outdoors follows you wherever the trail leads – ensuring your adventure is boundless.

Head to your local ARB store or stockist, or visit www.arb.com.au/earth-camper for more information.

ARB EARTH CAMPER
ZERO

10 things you need to know about **four-wheel driving**

BY ADAM O'BRIEN

Tips to keep you comfortable and out of trouble on remote off-road adventures.

1. BE PREPARED

As a wise individual once stated, by failing to prepare, you prepare to fail. If you're an off-road adventurer, always keep a checklist of what to pack and which inspections to carry out on your vehicle before any long treks. Update your checklist whenever your gear or routine evolves. It should also include even the glaringly obvious stuff – you can break it up into different terrains, climates and lengths of trip.

2. RECOVERY GEAR: THE ESSENTIALS

A shovel is the first tool for any recovery kit. If you get bogged, a shovel and a bit of elbow grease to clear a ramp is often all that's required to get you out of trouble. A snatch strap is next, used for recovery via a tow vehicle. The snatch strap is strengthened, seatbelt-like in appearance, and about 15 metres long with a reinforced loop at each end that's hooked onto rated recovery points.

Once connected, in low range, as the tow vehicle inches forward and the strap becomes taut, the driver of the vehicle being towed releases the clutch and gives a slight rev of the engine, which usually pulls it free. Any bystanders or passengers should always stand well clear of the vehicles in case the snatch strap or a recovery point breaks and whips around dangerously.

3. THE TRUTH ABOUT WINCHES (AND OFF-ROAD COURSES)

A winch is a great recovery tool when travelling solo, but they can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Having a large vehicle tied to the end of a thin metal cable requires know-how to ensure safety. A four-wheel drive course is a good opportunity to learn how to use one. In fact, a four-wheel drive course is a good idea for any off-roader that isn't already a bush ninja. You'll learn all manner of recovery skills and driving techniques. Winches come in various styles (including engine-powered, electric and manual), load capacities and price brackets, suitable for different vehicles and situations.

4. OFF-ROAD JACK IS A MUST

A reliable jack is essential, and you can also opt for an exhaust jack, which is a heavy-duty inflatable bag. You place the inflator hose over the exhaust, start the engine, and the bag inflates and elevates the car. Both jacks can be used for wheel replacement and recovery purposes. A metal or thick timber base plate, which the jack sits on so it is stable when changing a tyre on soft surfaces, is also a must. A pair of rigger's gloves are handy for many tasks, especially when doing recovery work and tyre changes in harsh conditions.

5. RECOVERY POINTS (RATED): THE FACTS

Unless you can winch yourself clear when your vehicle gets stuck, dig yourself out or use rails or an inflatable jack, you'll likely require a snatch from a fellow driver. This is not really the ideal time to discover that your car has no suitable recovery points. It's not a given that a standard four-wheel drive will have rated recovery points strong enough for this type of activity.

A properly designed and fitted kangaroo bar usually comes with strong recovery points built in. Another possibility is that hooks are bolted to one of the chassis rails. A professionally fitted tow bar can double as a rear recovery point – but don't tie onto the tow ball because they will snap and slingshot, causing damage to vehicles, and possibly death to bystanders.

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6. KANGAROO BAR OR BULL BAR?

A protective front bar provides cover for a vehicle's various cooling systems and is essential for heavy off-roading. A bumper bar crumples like a cracker when it encounters something solid, leaving your essential components compromised, and your vehicle possibly stranded in remote country. An airbag-compliant, and pedestrian-friendly kangaroo bar should be sought where possible.

Front bars are required to have as streamlined an external profile as possible to minimise pedestrian injury, and must not have forward projections jutting out, such as light and aerial brackets. As mentioned previously, bars are also useful for recovery situations.

7. SAND DRIVING 101

The first trick to driving on sand is getting your tyre pressure right. This is generally in the 16–18 PSI range, but if your vehicle is heavier than a standard off-roader, drop below 16 PSI – the firmer the tyre, the easier it burrows into sand.

If you hit unusually boggy sections, consider dropping the PSI even lower. On an uneven sandy course, you have to take care in a bulky off-roader. When driving dunes, the most important tactical consideration is keeping the vehicle as vertical as possible. If your approach is too diagonal, you're likely to roll over – keep it straight and you can reverse back down if things get crazy. Sand flags are not required on all beaches, but a little extra forewarning for other drivers never hurts.

Another thing to consider is speed. If you're going too fast, you could lose control if the course gets uneven suddenly – you can't always spot hazards on sandy courses until it's too late. On the flipside, if you're going too slow, you increase your chances of getting bogged – especially on tidal sections near the coastline. When surfaces are especially soft, the best approach is to drop to a lower gear and high range, and keep your revs per minute up so that you can accelerate quickly if the vehicle starts sinking.

8. WATER CROSSING MUST DOS

Never enter a body of water without checking its depth – get out and wade it first (as long as it's not fast flowing or in croc country) to find the shallowest route. Avoid fast-flowing water at all costs – just six inches of fast-moving water is enough to sweep a person off their feet. Pausing also allows the car's components to cool – submerging a hot vehicle causes sudden

drops in air pressure within the housing of various components that will suck water in. Enter slowly in low range, with your four-wheel drive engaged, and never change gear during the crossing. Take it slowly but maintain momentum. If you stall, don't restart the engine.

9. WATER RECOVERY SAFETY TIPS

Pulling a vehicle out of a body of water can be difficult and dangerous. The highest priority is safety – car insurance will buy you a new rig (provided driving it into a river doesn't void the policy); life insurance will buy your widow lots of stuff, but that's no fun for you.

Get passengers out and onto dry land, then plan the recovery. A tow vehicle has more horsepower than a winch, bit if it's physically impossible to tow a vehicle, winching is your best option. With the stranded vehicle's components filling with water, its electrics may be useless. A winch from another vehicle should be used – as many as you can link up will ease the individual strain and increase your likelihood of success.

If your vehicle is not set up for water crossings, any depth higher than the axles shouldn't be attempted. Any depth beyond this requires a snorkel for the engine's air intake, and breathers for the differential and gearbox. In case of an emergency, you can temporarily detach your fanbelt to help keep water out of your engine bay or use a tarp to tape to the front of the vehicle to keep the engine dry. If your vehicle has a distributor cap, cover this, as well.

Once on dry land, if you have a petrol engine and find that your air filter is wet, the engine has likely drawn water. Don't start it or it will hydraulically lock. Remove the spark plugs and turn the ignition – this will shoot any water the engine has taken in out of the plug seats.

10. ROOFTOP TENTS – PERFECT FOR OFF-ROADING

While not 'essential', a rooftop tent can be very handy up north in croc country. The idea is thought to have originated in South Africa, where the thin walls of a tent at ground level give predators as much pause as the wrapping on a Mars bar. They come in many shapes, sizes, levels of sophistication, and vary heavily in price (up to several thousand dollars for fancy examples). Conveniently, they afford numerous other advantages over typical ground tents.

A major advantage is the saved time and effort when setting up camp. Mattresses are built-in to most units, usually made of high-density foam of a thickness somewhere between 50 and 100 millimetres, and are usually at least as comfortable as an inflatable mattress (but require a fraction of the effort). Units are usually designed to be collapsed with bedding left inside. Systems can by automated, folding out at the push of a button (just what the doctor ordered in fading light after a long day of driving), or manually raised. They are also excellent in heavy rain or flooding – you could set up camp in a creek bed and wake up dry. ↙

MSA 4X4 Towing Mirrors with camera provision still the best-looking towing mirrors available

MSA 4X4 is adding new and exciting features and provisions to its range of patented, Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)-award-winning towing mirrors.

MSA has always prided itself on being at the leading edge of industry trends, and with these new features, MSA is aiming to stay there. The camera feature in towing mirrors has long been a topic of discussion in the four-wheel drive, caravanning and adventure community. The MSA team has recently finalised the implementation of the camera provision into the highly popular MSA POWER FOLD™ Towing Mirrors range. With acknowledgement that the product research and development process can at times be complex and extensive, MSA will initially launch the camera provision for selected vehicles; however, the camera provision for other vehicles will become available as the integration and development process is completed for each compatible vehicle – so there will be more to come. To stay engaged and to receive important information about MSA and its new product launches, please follow MSA's socials and sign up for its monthly newsletter.

These new MSA Towing Mirrors share the same SEMA-award-winning, large, single-mirror design that has made MSA Towing Mirrors so popular among four-wheel driving and adventure enthusiasts. The only visual difference is the integration of the camera housing into the design. So, these mirrors continue to be the best-looking towing mirrors available. The mirror head pivots on the same heavy-duty extension slide attached to a solid base, as the original MSA Towing Mirrors. The extension slide allows the mirror to extend out when towing, and return to a standard driving position when not required.

The large single-mirror lens creates less confusion and enhances safety while driving. The four, easily adjustable mirror positions provide greater vision to any towing situation, and sturdy construction limits vibration on rough roads. ADR-compliance with towing mirrors is a must, as safety is paramount when towing anything behind a vehicle. All MSA Towing Mirrors are ADR-compliant, come with a five-year warranty, and comply with government guidelines. MSA 4X4's Towing Mirrors mount onto a vehicle door in the same position as the existing factory mirrors, and come with the choice of black or chrome. MSA 4X4's patented Towing Mirrors are manufactured with injection-moulded plastic and die-cast aluminium components that deliver high-quality towing mirrors to withstand Australian conditions.

Puddle lights will also appear on some models, adding a downlight to those dimly lit scenarios. To avoid inconvenience, ensure that the vehicle's make, model, series and factory mirror features match an MSA Towing Mirrors model before purchasing.

MSA 4X4
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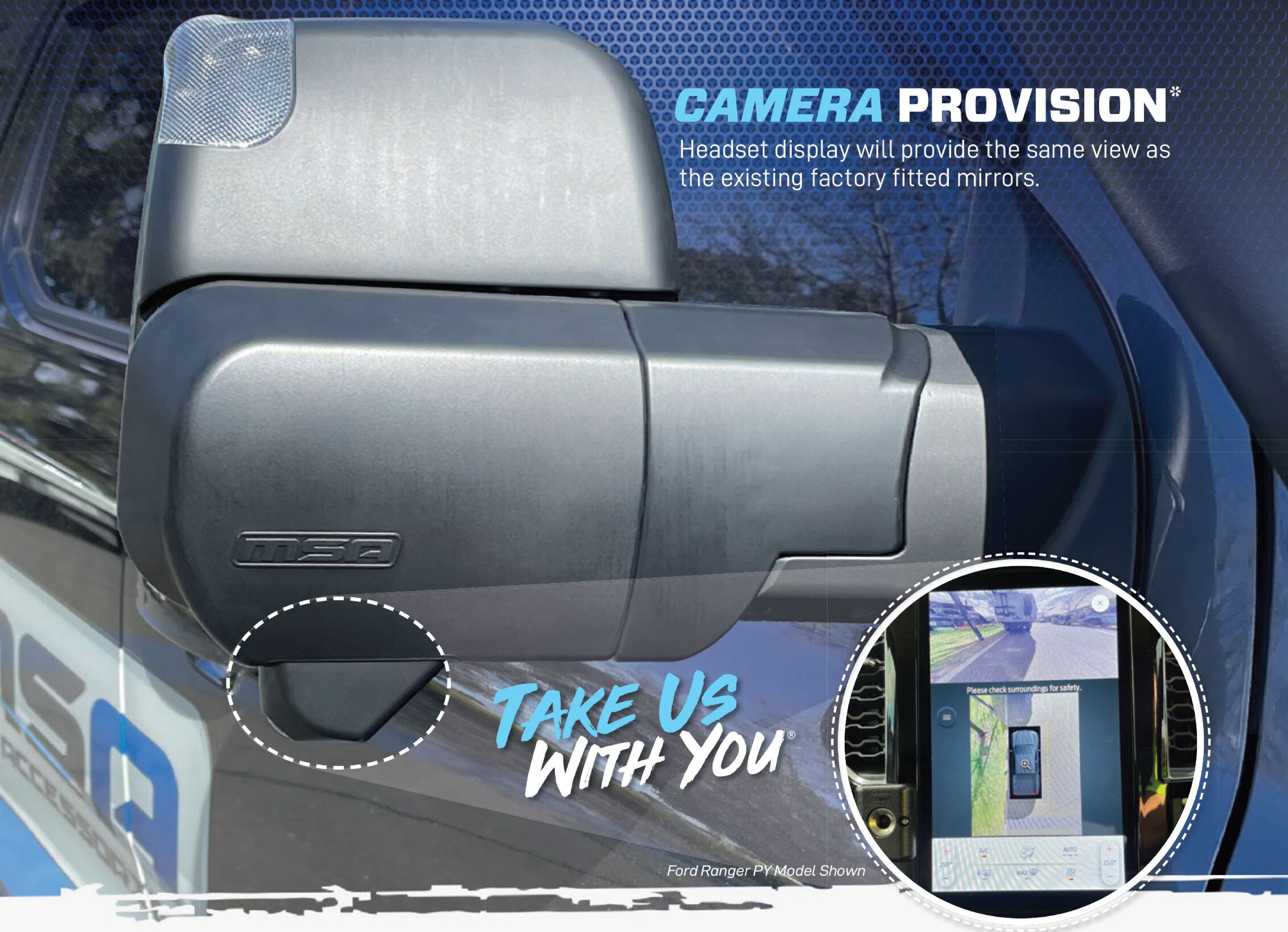
NOW WITH CAMERA PROVISION



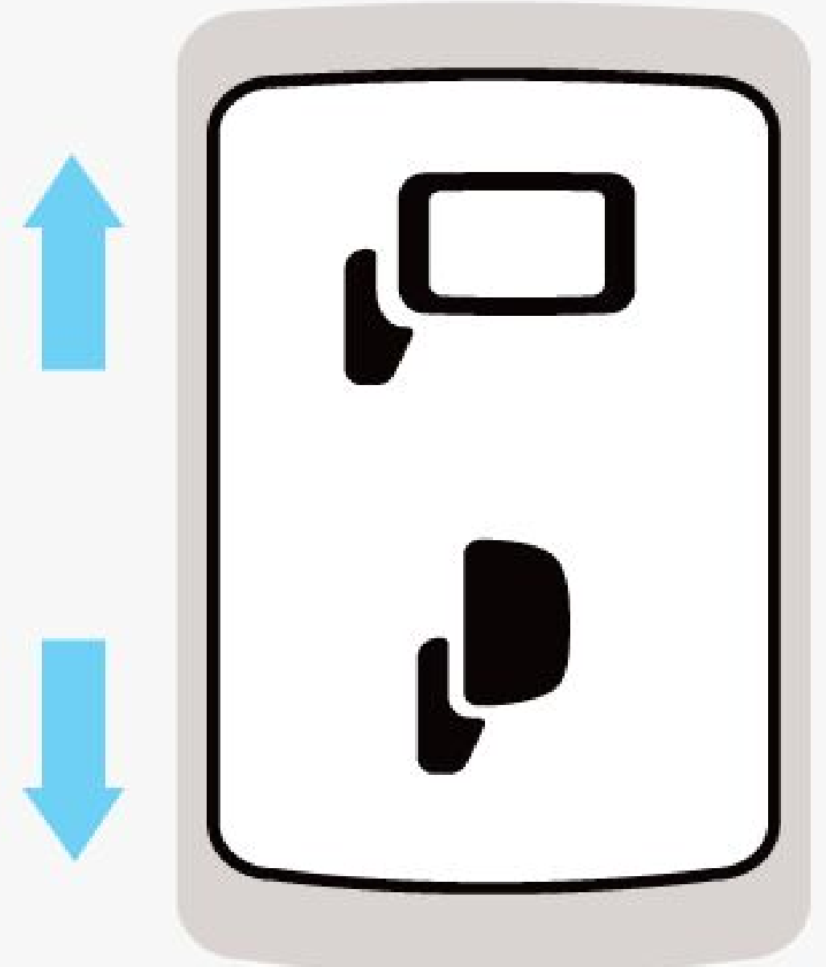
CAMERA PROVISION*

Headset display will provide the same view as the existing factory fitted mirrors.

Ford Ranger PY Model Shown

FOUR DIFFERENT MIRROR POSITIONS PERFECT FOR ANY DRIVING SITUATION

MSA 4X4 Towing Mirrors mount onto a vehicle in the same position as the existing factory mirrors.



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MSA 4X4 ACCESSORIES

EXECF A4 1024

The Pinnacles, Nambung National Park. Image © Tourism Western Australia

Western Australia's

ULTIMATE SUMMER ROAD TRIP

BY RUBY O'BRIEN

Experience the very best of Western Australia's coastline on the Indian Ocean Drive.

If you've ever wondered what the perfect summer road trip looks like, then look no further – Western Australia's Indian Ocean Drive, which meanders along the incredible Turquoise and Coral coasts from Perth up to Geraldton, is the ideal way to soak up summer. Think: lazy beach days, melt-in-your mouth seafood, unique natural wonders and plenty of fun in the sun. Along this stretch of pristine coastline, the bright-blue waves lap the white sand, the terracotta soil lines the winding highway, and the landscape feels ancient and almighty. Whether you tackle the journey slow and steady over a week, or surf down the coast in a multi-day sprint, you're bound to have the summer road trip of a lifetime!

PERTH TO CERVANTES

197 kilometres

The first stop on the journey is the town of Lancelin, about 90 minutes north of Perth. Here, the bright-white sand could easily be mistaken for snow – the only giveaway being the eskies, beach towels and swimsuits donning the dunes on a picture-perfect summer day. The relaxed township feels a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of busy Perth – it's a perfect welcome to the coast. If you've got the kids in tow, or just want to get your adrenaline pumping, hire or purchase some sand boards in town and slide down the dunes. Alternatively, quad bike tours are on offer for those who want a more rugged experience. If you decide to park up here for the night, be sure to grab some fish and chips and watch the sun set over the Indian Ocean – it's truly a sight to behold.

The next leg of the journey takes you north to Cervantes. It's about a 50-minute drive, but prepare to carve out a whole day thanks to some epic adventures along the way. Just before you cruise into Cervantes, be sure to spend some time in Nambung National Park, home to one of Australia's most unique landscapes. The national park's sprawling 17,000 hectares of coastal heathland is dotted with an abundance of native flora and fauna. Animal lovers and birdwatchers can spot kangaroos, emus and cockatoos, as well as bobtail lizards. The national park's varied landscape – stretching from dry, desert-like plains to secret beach strips – is perfect for those who want to experience the very best of Western Australia's offerings (desert and surf) in one small pocket. Alongside this, Nambung National Park is home to some other-worldly displays of Mother Nature. The Pinnacles Desert, located within the national park, features thousands of limestone spires that shoot out of the earth – some are even up to 12 metres tall! The best way to admire these fascinating geological wonders is along the desert's 1.2-kilometre walking trail, which weaves around the Pinnacles and allows walkers to get a good look at these magnificent rock formations. If you'd prefer something a little more guided, Lumineer Adventure Tours offers up a self-drive tour around the Pinnacles, and even a Pinnacles Sunset Stargazing Tour.

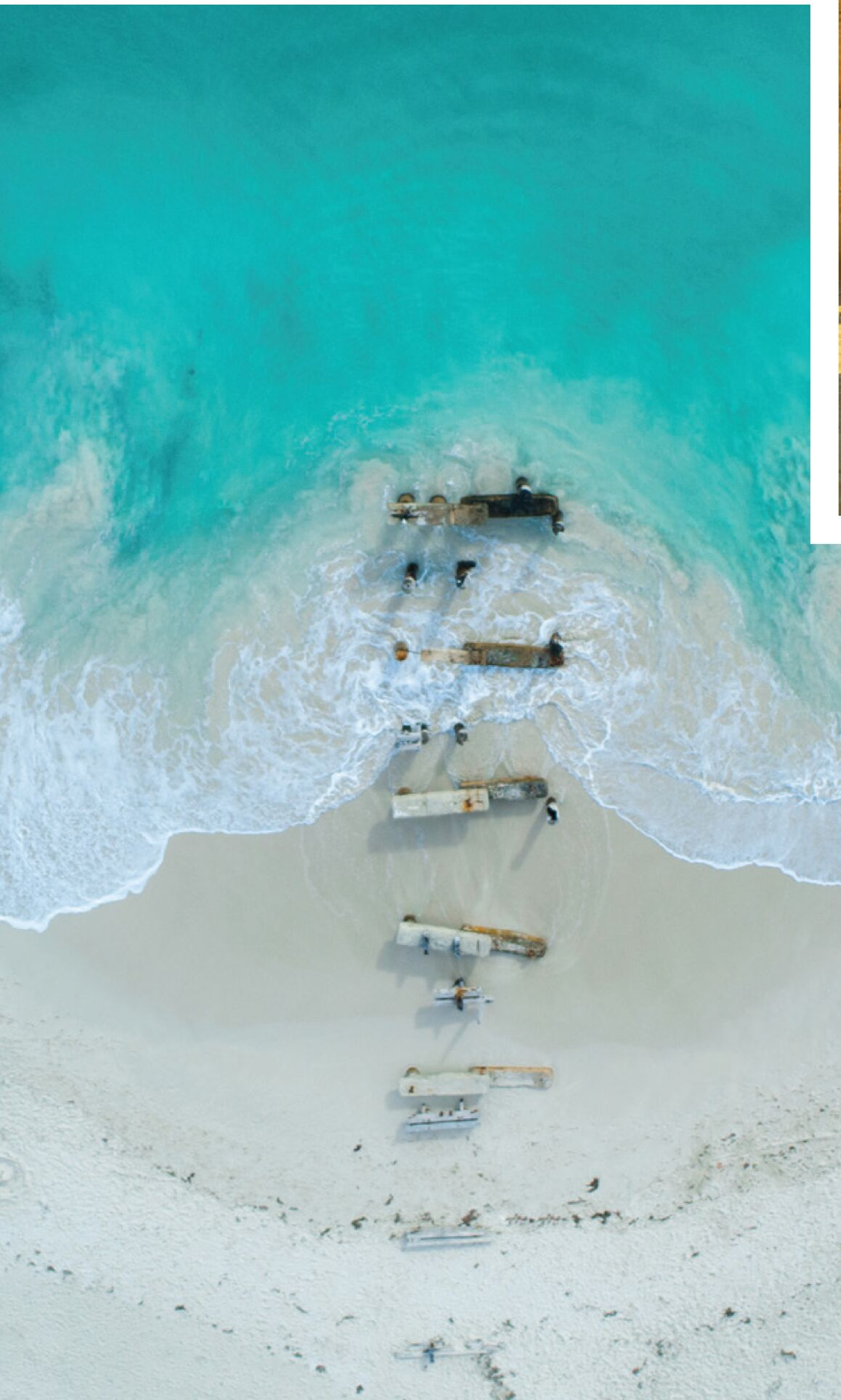
Jurien Bay. Image © Tourism Western Australia

Lobster Shack, Cervantes. Image © Tourism Western Australia

After your adventure in Nambung National Park, the township of Cervantes is only a mere 15-minute drive away. If you're still itching for more, head to Lake Thetis in town. This is no regular lake; instead, it's one of the only places in the world where you can find thrombolites and stromatolites. These long-named 'creatures' are rounded, rock-like formations that are considered living fossils. In fact, they're actually one of the oldest living life forms in the world, dating back millions of years!

Reward your long day full of adventures with a visit to the Lobster Shack. If you're a fan of seafood, you're in luck. The menu is adorned with the catch of the day; melt-in-your-mouth lobster with garlicky, herby butter; and salty, slurpy oysters. If you're less of a seafood fan, Cervantes has a range of other options: watch sport while downing American-style hot wings at Cervantes Bar and Bistro, or enjoy all your favourite pub classics (and even some Freddo-topped ice cream if you fancy some dessert … or need to bribe the kids) at Cervantes Country Club.

Lumineer Adventure Tours. Image © Tourism Australia



Turquoise Safaris, Jurien Bay. Image © Tourism Western Australia

Abrolhos Islands. Image © Australia's Coral Coast

CERVANTES TO DONGARA

160 kilometres

Before you leave Cervantes, make sure you refuel with a coffee from Seashells Cafe (which is conveniently located right next to the caravan park!), before jumping back in the car and heading up the coast. Of course, no summer holiday is complete without a day at the beach. If you'd prefer to extend your Cervantes stay for a day or two, nearby Kangaroo Point and Hangover Bay are perfect places to cook up some fresh prawns on the barbecue, launch the boat, relax with a good book on the sand, or enjoy time swimming in the ocean.

When you're finally ready to peel yourself away from Cervantes, travel 20 minutes north to Jurien Bay. This town is regarded as one of Western Australia's crayfish hotspots, making it the perfect place to throw in a line or jump on a fishing charter adventure. On top of this, Jurien Bay is also famous for its population of native sea lions. Aussie sea lions are only found in Western Australia and South Australia, and are one of the rarest breeds of sea lions in the world. Often, these mighty beasts can be found sunbathing on the sand; however, it's advised to admire them on a tour, and with an experienced guide. Turquoise Safaris lets you get up close and personal with these unique creatures on a snorkelling tour.

If you're more of an adrenaline junkie, then why not see Jurien Bay and the magnificent coastline from above? Skydive Jurien Bay offers single, sports and tandem skydiving from various heights. There's even a sunset option!

From Jurien Bay, it's 25 minutes to our next stop: Green Head. Green Head is home to Dynamite Bay, which was ranked as number 19 on Australia's Top 101 Best Beaches list in 2017. Visit here and it's easy to see why: crystal clear turquoise waters, soft stretches of sand, and an abundance of marine life – all protected from the bay's strong winds thanks to the low-lying rocky cliff that hugs the beach. It's bliss!

Aside from epic beaches, there's a plethora of things to do and see in Green Head. If you'd like to soak up the township's natural offerings, enjoy a stroll along the Three Bays Walkway – a costal track where you can learn all about the region's Indigenous and European histories. Alternatively, go for a hit on the green at the Green Head Golf Club, or admire the works of local artists at Green Head Gallery.

Yamaji Art Centre, Geraldton. Image © Tourism Western Australia

Abrolhos Islands. Image © Tourism Western Australia; @saltywings

Indian Ocean Drive. Image © Tourism Western Australia

DONGARA TO GERALDTON (AND BEYOND!)

70 kilometres

Next, it's onto the twin townships of Dongara and Port Denison, just over an hour north. If you'd prefer to take it slow and soak up those ocean views, there are plenty of camping spots (both powered and off-grid) dotted along the way.

The twin townships of Dongara and Port Denison are separated by the Irwin River, which flows seamlessly between the beachside towns. Eager anglers can cast a line from one of the jetties near Fisherman's Lookout, while those who enjoy stand-up paddleboarding and kitesurfing will have a field day at South Beach.

Aside from being an ocean oasis, Dongara and Port Denison are also rich in history, and are home to 15 sheet metal silhouettes of Anzac soldiers along Ocean Drive. On top of this, the Irwin District Museum is located within one of the state's oldest police stations. The former cop shop was a working police station until the 1980s, but now displays a range of relics, heirlooms and antiques that unlock secrets about the towns' past.

Once hunger strikes, head to Dat N Thu's Kitchen for your choice of either Asian cuisine or pub classics, or fry up your catch of the day on the barbie and listen to the chirp of cicadas as the sun sets.

Last, but certainly not least, it's onto Geraldton. Head 40 minutes north to find Western Australia's (arguably) most beautiful regional city. If you've been missing the buzz of city life, Geraldton's many bars, entertainment scene, and thriving arts and culture is bound to give you a quick fix. Admire art at the Yamaji Art Centre or Geraldton Regional Art Gallery; get your history buff on at the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial, Lighthouse Keepers Cottage, or with a tour of St Francis Xavier Cathedral; and channel your inner foodie at the city's many delicious local eateries.

If you'd prefer to avoid the hustle and bustle, opt for some time outside and take a charter to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. The islands are about 60 kilometres west of Geraldton, and feature 122 different islands that stretch across roughly 100 kilometres of ocean. They're a hub for biodiversity, action-packed water sports, and jaw-dropping beaches – a perfect way to round out your Indian Ocean Drive summer road trip. ↙

A place of magical landscapes

Situated 350 kilometres from Perth, the Shire of Lake Grace comprises four towns: Lake Grace, Newdegate, Lake King and Varley. This area of Western Australia is known for its exceptional plant biodiversity and unique flora, making it one of the world's hotspots for nature. The region is also home to stunning salt lakes and distinctive granite outcrops.

Lake Grace

The main centre of Lake Grace, which is home to nationally significant wetlands, is named after one of Western Australia's largest inland salt lakes, located just eight kilometres west of the town. The town boasts a new All Abilities Playground, as well as a rich art and culture scene with many public art displays depicting early settler history. The only remaining Australian Inland Mission Hospital in the state has been restored as a museum, providing a realistic insight into the challenges faced by pioneers and the medical needs of an isolated inland region.

Newdegate

Newdegate is the gateway to the Holland Track. Follow traces of John Holland's epic 1893 journey, when he and his partners cut the now-famous Holland Track. Discover the Hainsworth Museum, originally a grocery store established in 1931–32 and a beautiful reconstruction of a bygone era; the fantastic skate park; and the stunning Public Silo Trail mural by Brenton See. If visiting in September, be sure not to miss the Newdegate Machinery Field Days.

Lake King

A small rural town on the fringe of the Wheatbelt, deep in sheep and wheat farming country, Lake King comes alive in spring with an abundance of wildflowers. The Roe Heritage Trail, located south of the town, retraces part of Surveyor General Roe's historical journey in 1848. Trail maps are available from local retail outlets and accommodation providers. The Lake King Bush Engineers Tractor Museum showcases a collection of homemade tractors that were used for land-clearing purposes during the early 1970s.

Varley

Varley is a quaint community that boasts the motto: 'Great place, small crowd'. Camp overnight at the Chicken Ranch and visit the Rabbit Cemetery – a tribute to the rabbit plague of the 1920s, when these small mammals were a major pest to farmers. Go fossicking at Hatters Hill – an uninhabited settlement where gold was discovered in the early 20th century – and visit the Varley Museum to view memorabilia and historical town records. The key is available at the general store.

For more information, visit the Lake Grace Visitor Centre in person on Stubbs Street, Lake Grace, Western Australia, 6353, or online at www.lakegracevisitorcentre.com.au. Alternatively, call 08 9865 2140 or email lgvc2@lakegrace.wa.gov.au.

IT'S TIME TO DISCOVER LAKE GRACE,
NEWDEGATE, LAKE KING & VARLEY.
SLOW DOWN AND
ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

Conveniently situated halfway between Perth and Esperance, the Shire of Lake Grace is the perfect place to take a break. Refresh yourself with delicious food and coffee, explore the newly opened Lake Grace All Abilities Playground, or stay a little longer and lose yourself in the breathtaking salt lake scenery, unique rock formations and wildflowers. The museums, story trails, art displays, including the PUBLIC Silo Trail native wildlife mural by Brenton See in Newdegate, are sure to inspire.

LAKEGRACEVISITORCENTRE.COM.AU

LAKE GRACE
VISITOR CENTRE

SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE
THE GROWING CENTRE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JARRAD SENG & PRESENT MOMENT PHOTOGRAPHY

RV LAKE GRACE RV FRIENDLY TOWN

Camp with custodians

Aboriginal-owned and -operated Camping with Custodians campgrounds allow visitors to interact with the oldest-living culture on Earth, experiencing meaningful connections with Aboriginal people and their lands. These campgrounds provide immersive experiences that forge a deep understanding of Aboriginal culture and land, making any trip a truly unforgettable experience.

Located 200 kilometres north of Broome (Rubibi) on the Dampier Peninsula, Lombadina Campground and Caravan Park is a modern campground based next to the Lombadina community, offering immersive cultural and spiritual experiences, and connection with the bard way of life. Lombadina offers visitors the chance to experience local and traditional ways of life through various tour offerings, including pearl shell artworks, storytelling, local history and food.

Nearby, the Djarindjin Campground and Caravan Park off Cape Leveque Road has modern facilities and drive-through powered sites, where travellers can set up their caravans and visit the attractions of the beautiful Dampier Peninsula, or take a tour with a local Aboriginal guide.

Along the Gibb River Road, the Imintji Campground is both a resting point and a platform for excursions to the hinterland. It offers unpowered sites, hot showers, a gas barbecue shelter, fire pit, and a grassed central communal use area.

Mimbi Caves Campground is nestled at the foot of the Emanuel Range, just a short drive off the Great Northern Highway, and offers modern amenities, hot showers, a barbecue shelter and secluded campsites. Gooniyandi guides invite you to join them on an inspirational tour of one of Australia's most spectacular and unique natural geological sites, Mimbi Caves – a place of deep spiritual significance and one of the most abundant Devonian fossil sites in the world.

Violet Valley Campground, positioned on the banks of the Bow River, offers 14 unpowered campsites in a natural bush setting. Wide, open grasslands, abundant wildlife and activities for the adventurous, Violet Valley is located just 35 kilometres from the access road to Purnululu National Park, home to the Bungle Bungle Range – an astonishing formation of beehive-shaped sandstone domes formed by millions of years of rain and wind.

A conveniently located caravan park and campground on the Great Northern Highway, Doon Doon Caravan Park and Campground has powered and unpowered sites, a campfire and yarning circle, shade, hot showers, and a large barbecue shelter.

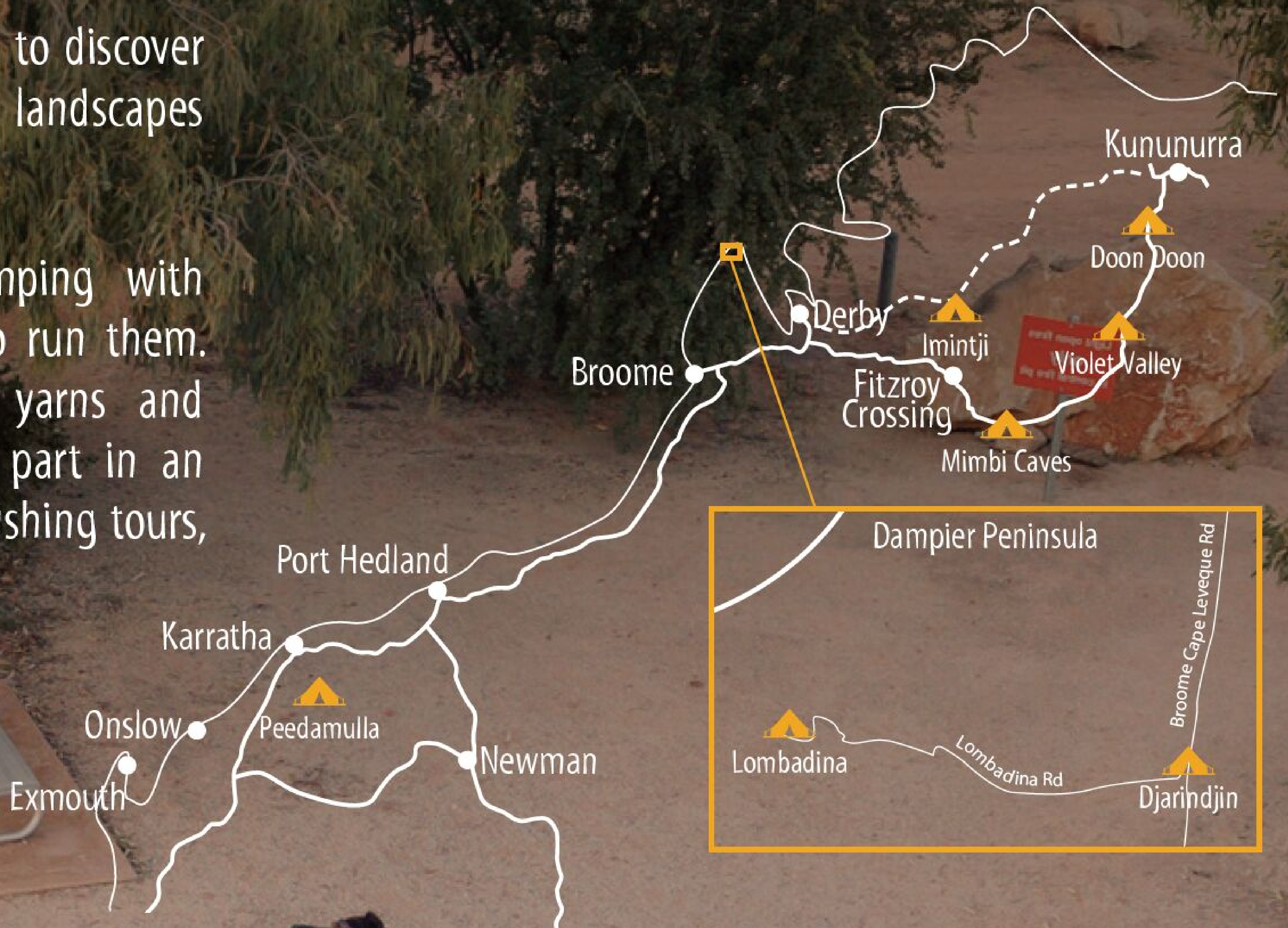
Peedamulla Campground near Onslow is the Pilbara's only Camping with Custodians campground, and offers high-quality bathroom and barbecue facilities, large powered and unpowered sites, plenty of space, and billions of stars. Explore the station's heritage-listed ruins, journey off-road to discover the remote Pilbara coast, or enjoy a yarn around the communal fire pit under the otherworldly Pilbara night sky.

Camping with Custodians is a partnership between participant Aboriginal communities and Tourism Western Australia.

EXPERIENCE WESTERN AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING CULTURE.

Western Australia's Traditional Custodians invite you to discover their rich histories, legendary stories, and magical landscapes unique to this part of the world.

Stay at an Aboriginal-owned-and-operated Camping with Custodians campground and meet the locals who run them. Spend your time unwinding around campfire yarns and basking in nature under the night sky. Or take part in an exciting guided 4WD tagalong tour, walking trails, fishing tours, art, culture and more!


Kununurra
Doon Doon
Derby
Imintji
Violet Valley
Broome
Fitzroy Crossing
Mimbi Caves
Port Hedland
Karratha
Onslow
Peedamulla
Newman
Exmouth
Dampier Peninsula
Broome Cape Leveque Rd
Lombadina
Lombadina Rd
Djarindjin

MIMBI CAVES
FITZROY CROSSING

VIOLET VALLEY
KIMBERLEY

MIMBI CAVES
FITZROY CROSSING

IMINTJI
GIBB RIVER ROAD

PEEDAMULLA
ONSLOW

DOON DOON
EAST KIMBERLEY

DJARINDJIN
DAMPIER PENINSULA

LOMBADINA
DAMPIER PENINSULA

To find out more, visit campingwithcustodians.com

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CAMPING WITH CUSTODIANS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Best beaches
in South Australia

BY GABBY APTER

South Australia's coastline is a beach lover's paradise.

Rapid Bay.
Image © South Australian Tourism Commission

Memory Cove. Image © Brad Griffin Photography

South Australia is home to some of the best beaches you'll ever encounter. Framed by dramatic wildlife and crystal clear waters, these beaches are ideal for both family-friendly getaways and adventure-fuelled experiences. Each beach offers its own unique charm – from vibrant marine life, to breathtaking sunsets – making them must-visit destinations for sunseekers. So, strap in and let us round up the best of the best for a summer of fun in the sun (and surf!).

TUMBY BAY

The Art of Seaside Holidaying

- A perfect aquatic holiday playground, Tumby Bay is now a must-visit destination for art lovers any time of the year
- Vibrant street art is created in the town during the biennial Colour Tumby Festival held over the March long weekend (next in 2025)
- A street art map is available from Council, local businesses or online
- You won't want to miss the magnificent silo mural
- The Eyre Street Art Trail is also accessible for art lovers who want to extend their journey on the Wild Side

P: (08) 8688 2101 **E:** dctumby@tumbybay.sa.gov.au
www.tumbybay.sa.gov.au

EYRE STH·AUS

DISTRICT COUNCIL of TUMBY BAY

MEMORY COVE, EYRE PENINSULA

Just one hour from Port Lincoln, and situated at the top of Lincoln National Park, Memory Cove is sure to leave a lasting impression. The secluded cove offers pristine, white sandy beaches and turqoise waters bordered by classic Australian bushland. Accessible only by four-wheel drive, this hidden gem is a haven for wildlife, including an array of native birds and kangaroos. If you can't get enough of the blue water paradise, Memory Cove offers up to five different campsites for those looking to extend their trip. Take your four-wheel drive and set up camp to truly soak in all that Memory Cove has to offer. To maintain the special wilderness qualities of this nature reserve, access is limited to 15 vehicles per day, so be sure to book ahead.

FISHERY BAY, EYRE PENINSULA

Fishery Bay, a 20-minute drive from Port Lincoln and situated on the Eyre Peninsula, is the go-to spot for local surfers due to its reliable waves and crystal clear waters. Prominent bushland surrounds this secluded bay, and the vast white sandy plains allow for four-wheel drivers to drive straight onto the beach and set up for the day. Frolic in the powdery white sand, and explore the history and remains of what used to be a 19th-century whaling station. Stay alert, though, as the beach is generally not patrolled by lifeguards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

Magnificent sea views in Edithburgh

Edithburgh Caravan Park is under new management. Come and soak up the sea air as you relax and explore the beautiful Yorke Peninsula from the fantastic Edithburgh Caravan Park.

Edithbugh is approximately 270 kilometres from Adelaide, nestled on the quiet foreshore of Gulf St Vincent. Whether you want to fish, steep yourself in fascinating local history or find a base from which to explore the magnificent Yorke Peninsula, our family- and pet-friendly park is the obvious choice. We'd be blessed to welcome you!

It's the perfect place to unwind from the hustle and bustle of the city – just a short drive towards relaxing with a glass of wine.

The park makes the most of its beach-side location with magnificent views; beach access on two sides; a tidal pool; swimming beaches; a boat ramp; a breakwater; and plenty of bird species for the birdwatching enthusiast. It's also a great place for the family – there's lots to do with the kids!

The park boasts comfortable, well-appointed cabins and grassy, spacious caravan sites with plenty of room for parking, playing, and socialising. The southern amenities are immaculate after the recent upgrade, and the northern amenities will also be upgraded soon. The park's camp kitchen is surrounded by beautifully grassed areas with barbecue facilities, and the park is wheelchair accessible.

EDITHBURGH CARAVAN PARK

A Summer Holiday,
A Winter Retreat

- Absolute sea-views and it is the perfect location near swimming beaches, boat ramp and for the bird watching enthusiast.
- A great place for the family - lots to do with the kids!
- Dogs welcome all year round
- Under New Management
- Wheelchair accessible

EDITHBURGH
CARAVAN PARK

O'Halloran Parade, Edithburgh
Ph: (08) 8852 6056
bookings@edithburghcaravanpark.com.au
www.edithburghcaravanpark.com.au

Dolphin Bay.
Image © Carly Kruger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

ALMONTA BEACH, EYRE PENINSULA

Further west, you'll find Almonta Beach, situated in Coffin Bay National Park. Another one of Eyre Peninsula's crown jewels, fluffy sand dunes and breathtaking turquoise waters make Almonta Beach a must-visit for anyone seeking an unspoilt coastal experience. This stretch of paradise is known for its scenic beauty, with local wildlife, such as kangaroos and sea birds, often wandering out and frolicking near the surf. Visit during low tide to explore rock pools and lagoons as they begin to form.

HARDWICKE BAY, YORKE PENINSULA

Located on the banks of the Spencer Gulf, this isolated stretch of coastline sits nestled in a quiet seaside town, about 2.5 hours from Adelaide. Its remote location makes it the perfect spot to escape large crowds and enjoy some peaceful solitude. In Hardwicke Bay, you'll find clear shallow waters perfect for wading waist-deep and soaking up every last bit of sunshine. If your idea of a perfect day out is to get your blood pumping, the sheltered bay is also known to be the perfect location for swimming, boating and windsurfing. Adventurers can also check out Walk The Yorke – 500 kilometres of coastal scenery, historical lighthouses and, of course, some of the most pristine beaches in all of South Australia. Wishing to spend a few more days in paradise? Multiple accommodation options are scattered across Hardwicke Bay, catering to large families and couples alike.

Almonta Beach, Coffin Bay National Park.
Image © Sarah Byden; Vinnie Preston

INNESTON LAKE, YORKE PENINSULA

Wanting to book that dream Maldives getaway, but don't want to break the bank? Inneston Lake has you covered. Okay, so we know – this article is all about beaches; why are we listing a lake? The remote salt lake is home to blue waters and sandbanks surrounded by wilderness and wildlife, and is perfect for a summer dip. Inneston Lake is situated within the stunning Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park at the southern tip of the Yorke Peninsula. While there are many lakes to visit in the national park, Inneston Lake is the only one that boasts a stunning blue/green colour. The national park also happens to be located in an abandoned historical town, which was once home to a community of miners, shopkeepers, and their families. The ghost town is now home to seven renovated heritage lodges, which visitors can stay in.

DOLPHIN BEACH, YORKE PENINSULA

Also situated in the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park, you'll find Dolphin Beach, an 800-metre-long stretch of paradise. Situated in the north of the park, this beach is easily accessible by car and is just a short 50-metre walk down from the car park. Surrounded by cliffs and wildlife, Dolphin Beach is one of the safest spots to swim in on the peninsula. Large granite rocks frame the far west end of the beach, while you'll find impressive waves crashing into the neighbouring cliffs in the far east.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

Beautiful Ardrossan

Ardrossan, just a 90-minute drive from Adelaide, is the eastern gateway to the Yorke Peninsula, and is the ideal base from which to explore the region.

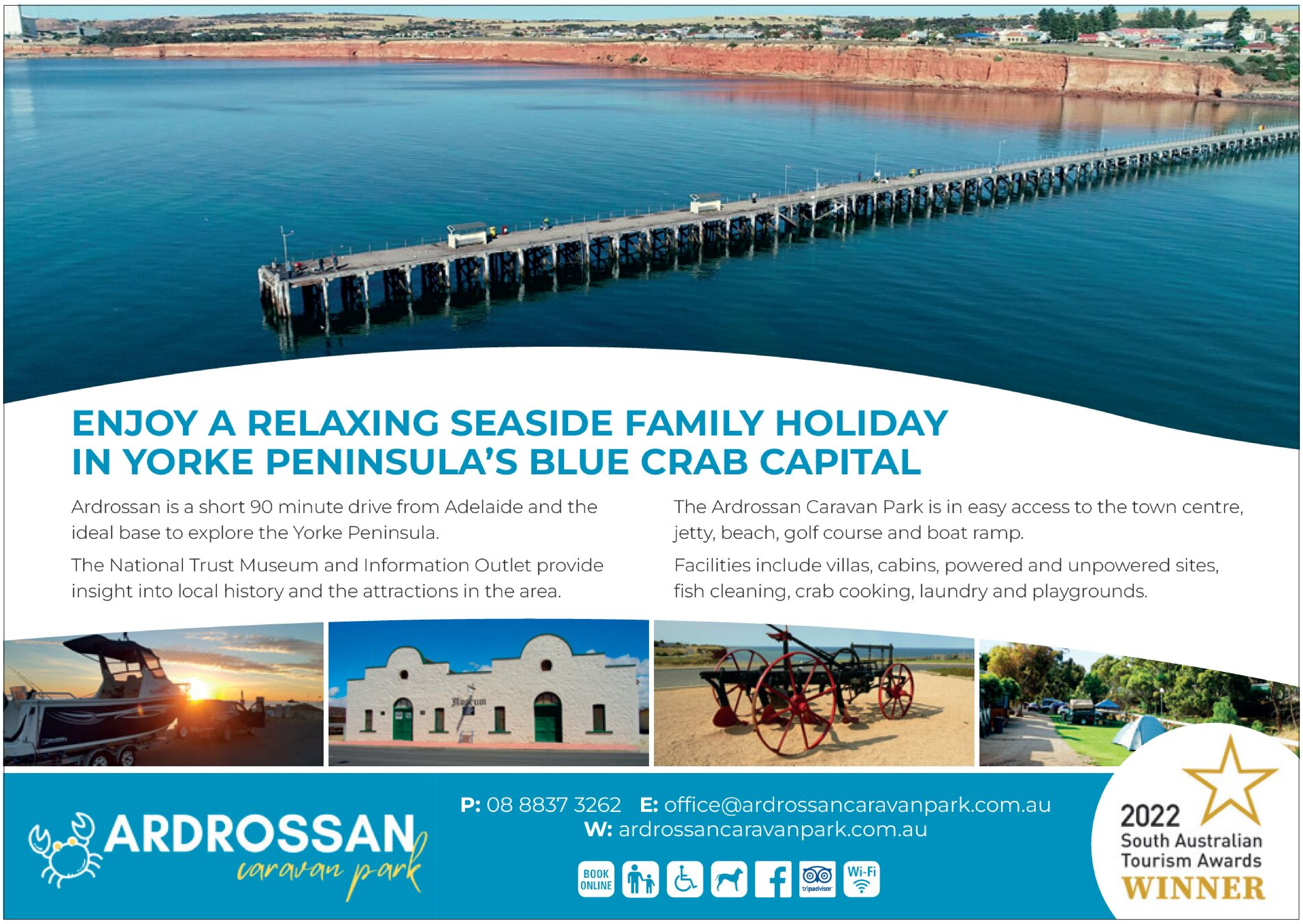
The National Trust Museum and Information Centre are open daily from 10 am to 4 pm, with displays and friendly volunteers to provide an insight into local history and the natural attractions in the area. The centre has a comprehensive selection of information leaflets and souvenirs. The museum welcomes groups by booking, as well as individual visitors, and has quizzes and questionnaires for people to answer as they go around making the most of their visit.

The Ardrossan Caravan Park is just a short distance from the town centre, which features Drakes Supermarket, Ardrossan Pharmacy, a hardware store, newsagency, travel agent, and various coffee houses, eateries and boutiques. The jetty, beach, clifftop walk and boat ramp are also in easy reach of the caravan park.

Facilities in the caravan park include villas, cabins, powered and unpowered sites, fish cleaning facilities, crab cooking, laundry and playgrounds. There are barbecues and lawned areas for children to play on, as well as two small fenced playgrounds.

The information centre has various leaflets that outline things to do in and around Ardrossan, including a driving tour of the area, which will take you through such attractions as the SIMEC mining lookout and whale memorial, as well as other historical and modern places of interest.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ardrossan.



ENJOY A RELAXING SEASIDE FAMILY HOLIDAY IN YORKE PENINSULA'S BLUE CRAB CAPITAL

Ardrossan is a short 90 minute drive from Adelaide and the ideal base to explore the Yorke Peninsula.

The National Trust Museum and Information Outlet provide insight into local history and the attractions in the area.

The Ardrossan Caravan Park is in easy access to the town centre, jetty, beach, golf course and boat ramp.

Facilities include villas, cabins, powered and unpowered sites, fish cleaning, crab cooking, laundry and playgrounds.

ARDROSSAN caravan park

P: 08 8837 3262 **E:** office@ardrossancaravanpark.com.au
W: ardrossancaravanpark.com.au

BOOK ONLINE Wi-Fi

2022 South Australian Tourism Awards WINNER

Almonta Beach, Coffin Bay National Park. Image © South Australian Tourism Commission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

You also might be able to find dolphins frolicking in Dolphin Beach's waters, letting this spot truly live up to its name.

SALMON HOLE, LIMESTONE COAST

Four hours south of Adelaide and just minutes from the seaside town of Beachport, you'll find Salmon Hole – 600 metres of soft white sand and tranquil waters. Located on the Limestone Coast, the calming lagoon is sheltered by beach rock reef, creating the perfect location for snorkelling, sandboarding and sunbathing. As the name suggests, Salmon Hole is home to an abundance of salmon, along with snapper and mullet, making it perfect for those looking to throw in a line. While the beach is unpatrolled, the lagoon's shallow waters make for calm and relaxing swimming conditions.

RAPID BAY, FLEURIEU PENINSULA

Travel 105 kilometres south of Adelaide and you will find Rapid Bay, one of the many beaches sprinkled across the Fleurieu Peninsula. Nestled between cliffs and sandy beaches, Rapid Bay is accessed via a steeply descending road, forming an isolated oasis full of wonders to explore. Snorkel just beyond the beaches and you'll discover notable shipwrecks and vast marine life, including the magnificent leafy sea dragon. A newly built jetty replaces the original one built in 1940, which is now closed off to the public. The new jetty is perfect for a leisurely stroll, where you can secure a spot for fishing or simply admire the breathtaking views.

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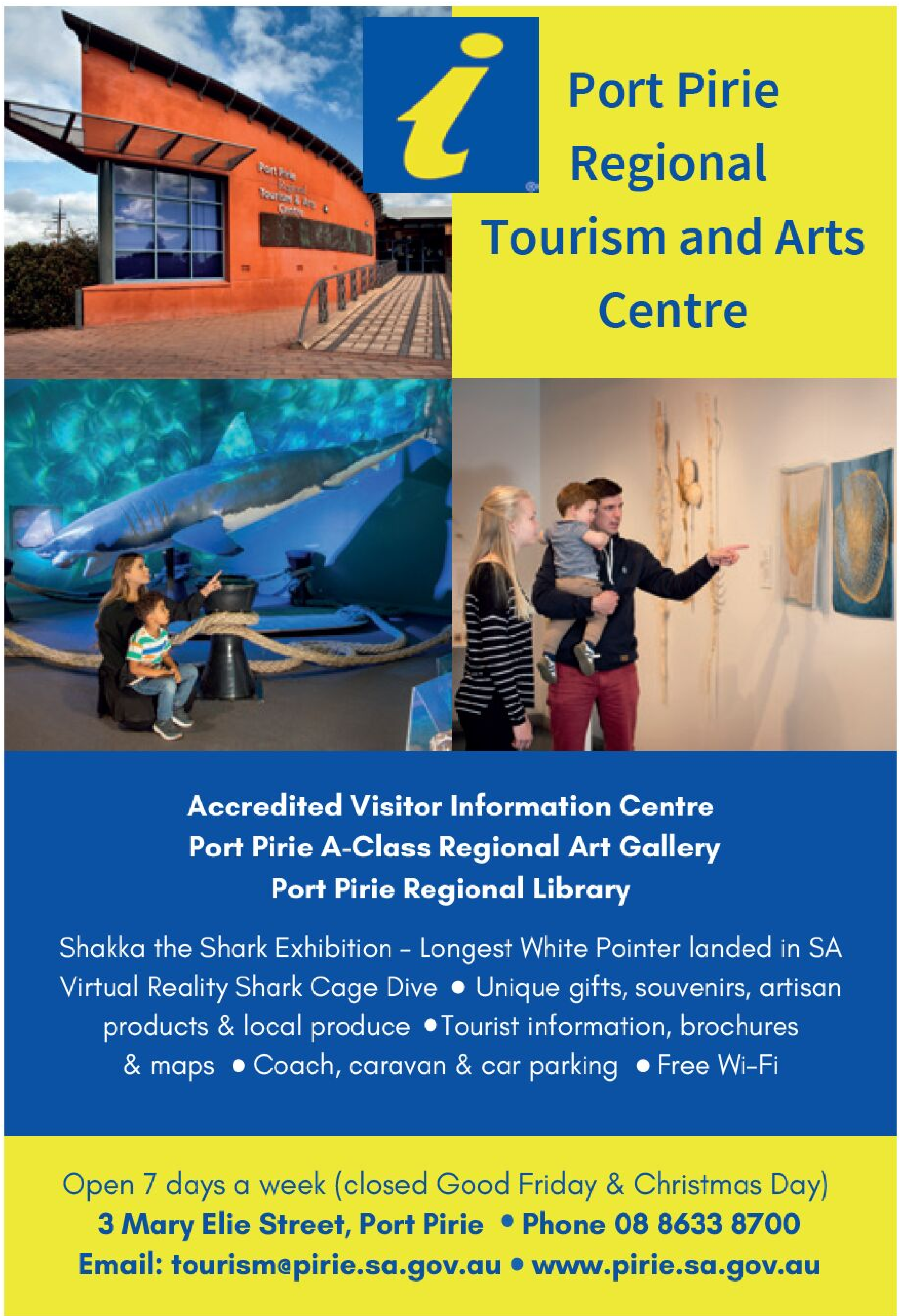

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Amazing almonds

Almondco Australia is an award-winning marketer and processor of Australian almonds. From humble beginnings in the Southern Vales of Adelaide in 1944, Almondco has developed into an icon of the industry.

Almondco was founded by the pioneering families of the Australian almond industry. What started out as a cooperative of like-minded growers has become a powerhouse on the world stage, renowned for producing almond products of the highest quality.

The Almondco grower cooperative proudly counts more than 80 per cent of all almond growers in Australia as contributing members. More than 150 growers now supply Almondco across five growing districts.

More than 80 almond products are showcased instore at the Almondco Almond Hut, located on site at Almondco's state-of-the-art processing facility in Renmark, South Australia.

The range includes natural and blanched almonds, which are available in different cuts and as a meal. There is also a variety of flavoured, roasted and chocolate-covered almonds available, which come in a range of pack sizes. Other products available include almond paste, almond gelato, flavoured almond milks, almond oil and hearty muesli.

Almondco also showcases a new-look range of eye-catching re-usable hard containers and other fantastic bespoke products instore, with even more exciting products to come.

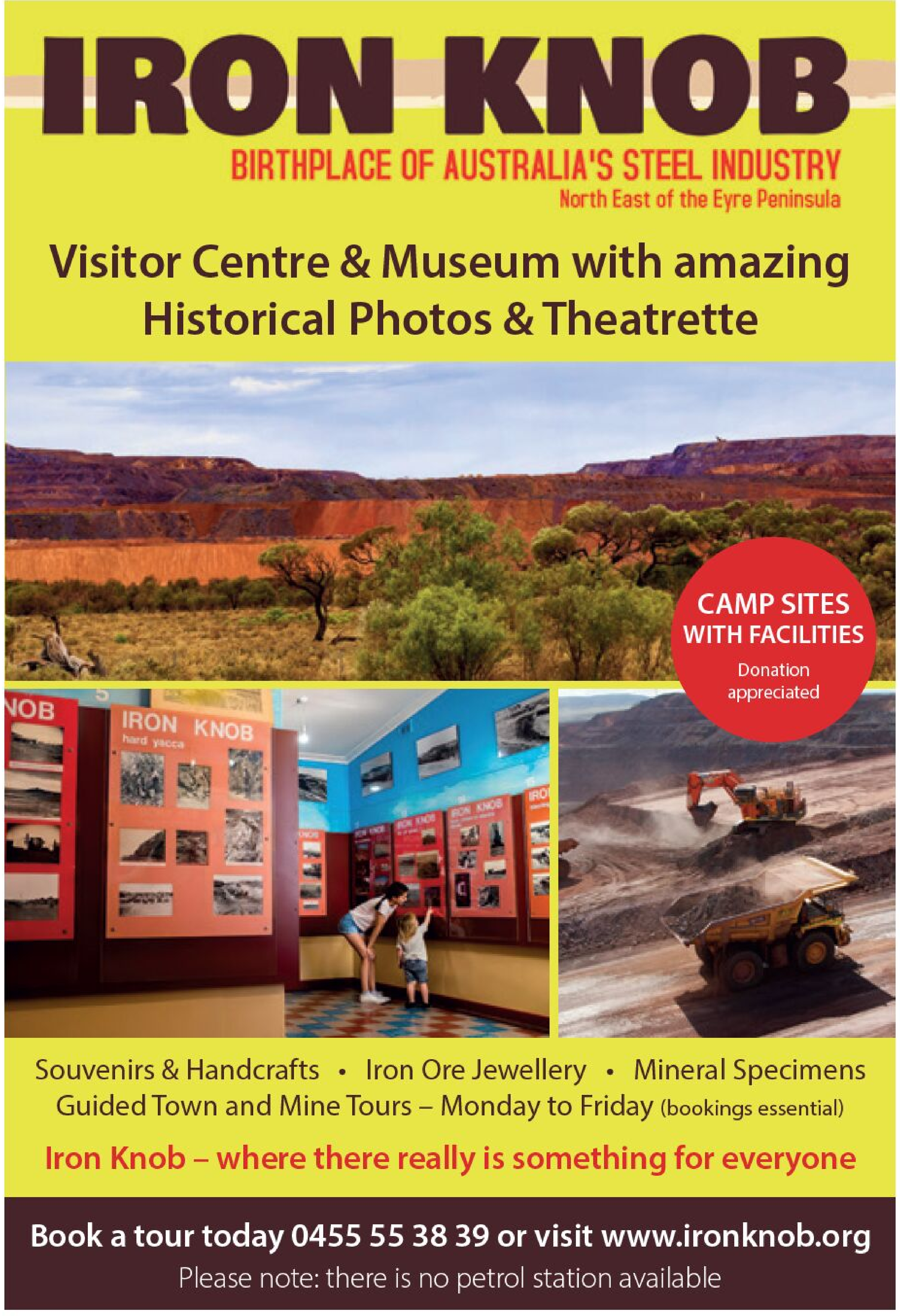
Come in and visit the Almondco Almond Hut where you can shop and learn more about the Almondco story.

Almondco Australia – it's a whole new almond experience!

ALMONDCO
PREMIUM AUSTRALIAN ALMONDS

Open Monday to Thursday
8.30am to 4.30pm
Friday 8am to 4pm
(Closed public holidays)
19895 Sturt Highway, Renmark, SA
Opposite the Renmark Golf Club
Phone 8586 8840

Shop online almondco.com.au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Visitor Centre & Museum with amazing Historical Photos & Theatrette
CAMP SITES WITH FACILITIES
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Souvenirs & Handcrafts • Iron Ore Jewellery • Mineral Specimens
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Iron Knob – where there really is something for everyone
Book a tour today 0455 55 38 39 or visit www.ironknob.org
Please note: there is no petrol station available

COOBOWIE CARAVAN PARK
"The Pelican Port on the Yorke"

- Accommodation to suit all budgets, some with absolute beach frontage
- Pet friendly, with cabin options available
- Fish cleaning facilities
- Coobowie Retreat – sleeps 32, accessible
- Fully equipped camp kitchen by BBQs, Children's playground
- Laundry facilities
- Dump point

Address: 23 Beach Road, Coobowie, SA 5583
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Email: bookings@coobowiecaravanpark.com.au
Website: www.coobowiecaravanpark.com

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SECOND VALLEY, FLEURIEU PENINSULA

Second Valley is another hidden gem located on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Less than 1.5 hours from Adelaide, this is the perfect location for escaping the chaos of city beaches. Whether you're simply looking for a relaxing dip, wanting to spend some time fishing on the jetty, or are ready to tackle one of the nearby coastal hikes, Second Valley is the perfect spot to spend a summer's day. With so much to do and explore here, take advantage of the caravan park located behind the beach and extend your stay.

VIVONNE BAY, KANGAROO ISLAND

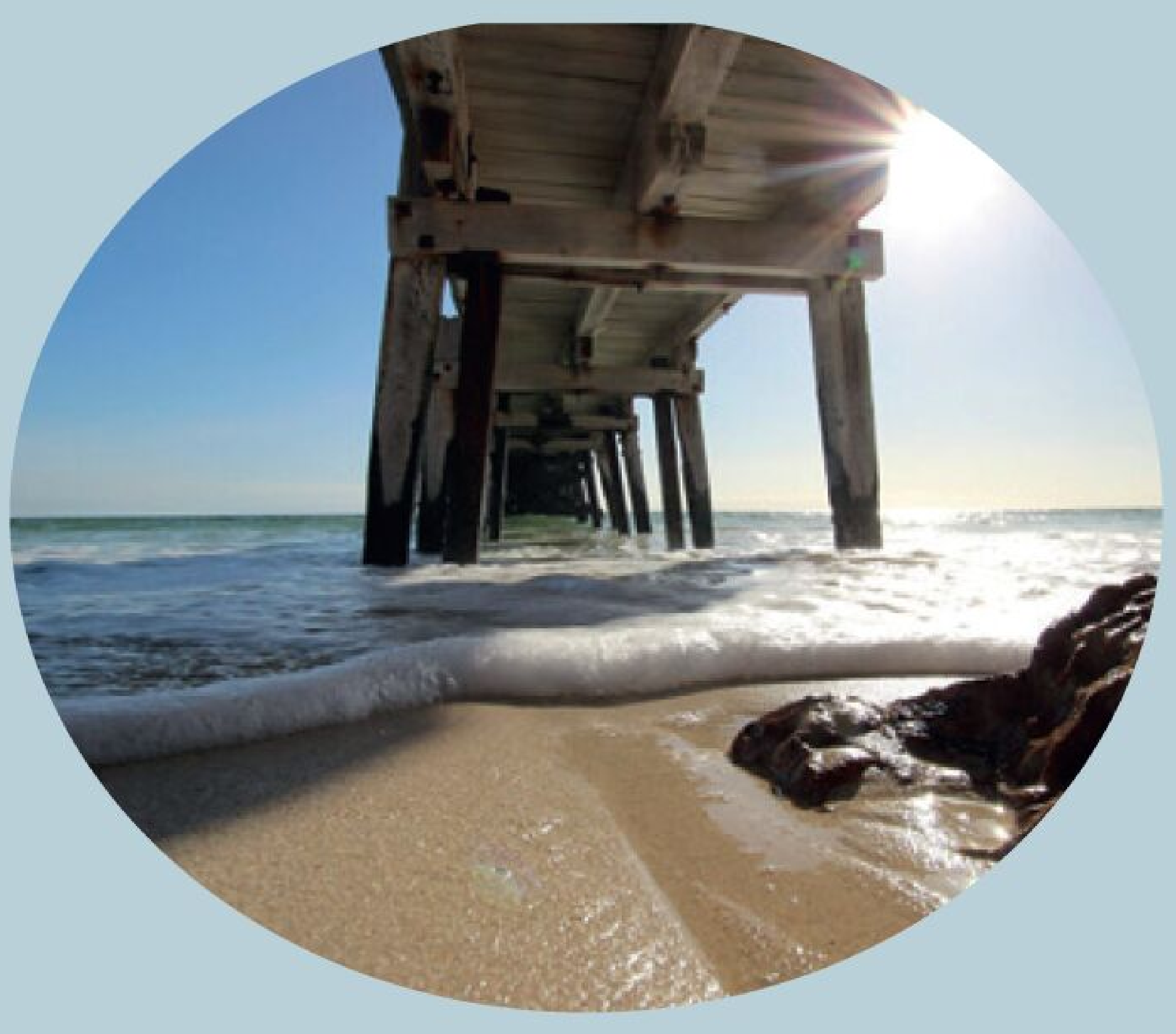
Once voted Australia's best beach, Vivonne Bay is the perfect island paradise. The white sandy shores stretch across six kilometres of Kangaroo Island, and the bay is home to picture-perfect transparent waters. The beach is framed by a long jetty down the south end and vast dunes in the north, serving as a reminder that you can find a tropical island haven without leaving Australia. It's not only humans who enjoy the pristine waters of Vivonne Bay, as both dolphins and seals are known to frequent the waters of this stunning beach. ↙

Second Valley. Image © Ryan Formosa Photography

Yorke Peninsula
COUNCIL HOLIDAY PARKS

Black Point
08 8838 2239

Port Vincent Foreshore
08 8853 7073



Yorketown
0499 213 605

Port Rickaby
08 8853 1177

Point Turton
08 8854 5222

Marion Bay
08 8854 4094

ypcholidayparks.com.au

Spend summer on the Yorke Peninsula

The Yorke Peninsula is a summer paradise for visitors who enjoy a laid-back lifestyle, magnificent beaches and some of the best fishing in the nation.

The peninsula is bordered by the sea on three sides – with 485 kilometres of coastline ranging from family-friendly sandy beaches with calm waters, through to world-renowned surf breaks.

The coastal lifestyle, and tremendous fishing on offer, remain the major drawcards for people moving into the area for a sea change.

Other recreation options include the award-winning Walk The Yorke Trail, Salt Lake Trail and the recently extended Southern Yorke Peninsula (SYP) Water Tower Mural Trail.

The SYP Water Tower Mural Trail features murals on the South Australian water towers and tanks at Port Vincent, Stansbury, Coobowie, Edithburgh, Yorketown, and Wool Bay and Minlacowie, which were added in 2023.

Of course, the most popular options remain relaxing on the beach or fishing – and to that end, the Yorke Peninsula region has 12 jetties and 33 boat-launching facilities to help people catch their next feed.

Explore

Discover the spectacular Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park, meander along one of the coastal walking trails, learn to surf, go sailing or wander the beach for shells. Try diving the depths for a brilliant underwater adventure, or explore the Samphire Coast back on dry land – a significant migratory shorebird area. Get a spectacular bird's-eye view from a lookout, visit a lighthouse or a museum, and learn about the peninsula's seafaring past.

Beaches galore

Whether you are looking for secluded, footprint-free beaches, calm bays to swim in, fishing spots or thunderous waves to surf, there is something for everyone on Yorke Peninsula. Flaherty's Beach is a stunning destination between Hardwicke Bay and Point Turton. One visit will quickly reveal why Flaherty's is considered one of the top five beaches in all of Australia – and there are dozens more amazing beaches around the peninsula that could challenge for that same title.

Be active!

Enjoy fishing, swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, bodyboarding, kayaking, windsurfing, snorkelling, diving and sailing all around Yorke Peninsula. If you don't have your own equipment, several businesses in the area hire out kayaks, paddleboards and fishing gear.

Or, for the ultimate challenge, the Walk The Yorke is a trail that allows walking and (in most areas) cycling around the full 500 kilometres of the Yorke Peninsula. You can take on a small hike, or one of the 16 formal walks – perfect for exploring the Yorke Peninsula's coastline.

Surf central

The Yorke Peninsula plays host to major surfing and bodyboarding competitions, and is a great place to learn or practice. The south-west corner of the Yorke Peninsula is one of Australia's great surfing drawcards. It boasts a number of excellent surfing spots to suit boardriders of every skill level. In 2013, Daly Head became the first dedicated National Surfing Reserve on Australia's southern coast, cementing its place as a word-class surfing destination.

Marvel at nature

Admire the great outdoors and visit the Yorke Peninsula's marine parks, which are responsible for protecting some of South Australia's most important marine habitats – including mangrove forests, fish breeding grounds, and important bird breeding and feeding sites. With beautiful beaches and undersea treasures, the parks are places of spectacular natural beauty.

Stay on the Yorke Peninsula

Yorke Peninsula Council directly manages six caravan parks throughout the region, each with its own unique point of difference, but united by excellent facilities and friendly, professional staff.

Black Point Caravan & Camping Ground

Black Point's long stretch of sand lines a glistening bay, making it a popular destination for holiday-makers. You can stroll in the shallows to catch blue swimmer crabs, dive for scallops just offshore, throw out a line for fish, or just spend your time relaxing on this glorious stretch of beach.

Black Point Caravan & Camping Ground is the perfect base from which to explore, situated adjacent to the public boat ramp and offering trailer parking with magnificent sea views.

Marion Bay Caravan Park

This park is located only a five-minute drive from one of the most important and spectacular national parks in South Australia: Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park

The Marion Bay Caravan Park provides excellent central facilities and services. Feel right at home among the shady native trees, just a short walk from the sheltered beach and jetty.

Point Turton Caravan Park

Point Turton is a peaceful seaside town overlooking Hardwicke Bay's white sands and turquoise waters. The local jetty and boat ramp are right on the caravan park's doorstep, making this place a perfect spot to explore surrounding areas.

The Point Turton Caravan Park is uniquely nestled in a disused historical flux quarry, making it very popular as a tourist destination because of its sheltered location – allowing year-round boating, fishing and sailing.

Port Rickaby Caravan Park

Situated on the western side of the Yorke Peninsula with the Spencer Gulf lapping its shores, Port Rickaby is nestled between long coastal sand dunes and overlooks sublime seascapes. A shallow bay guarded by north and south reefs creates a sheltered sandy swimming beach, and the jetty is also excellent for fishing.

The Port Rickaby Caravan Park and Kiosk offer incredible foreshore views.

Port Vincent Foreshore Caravan Park

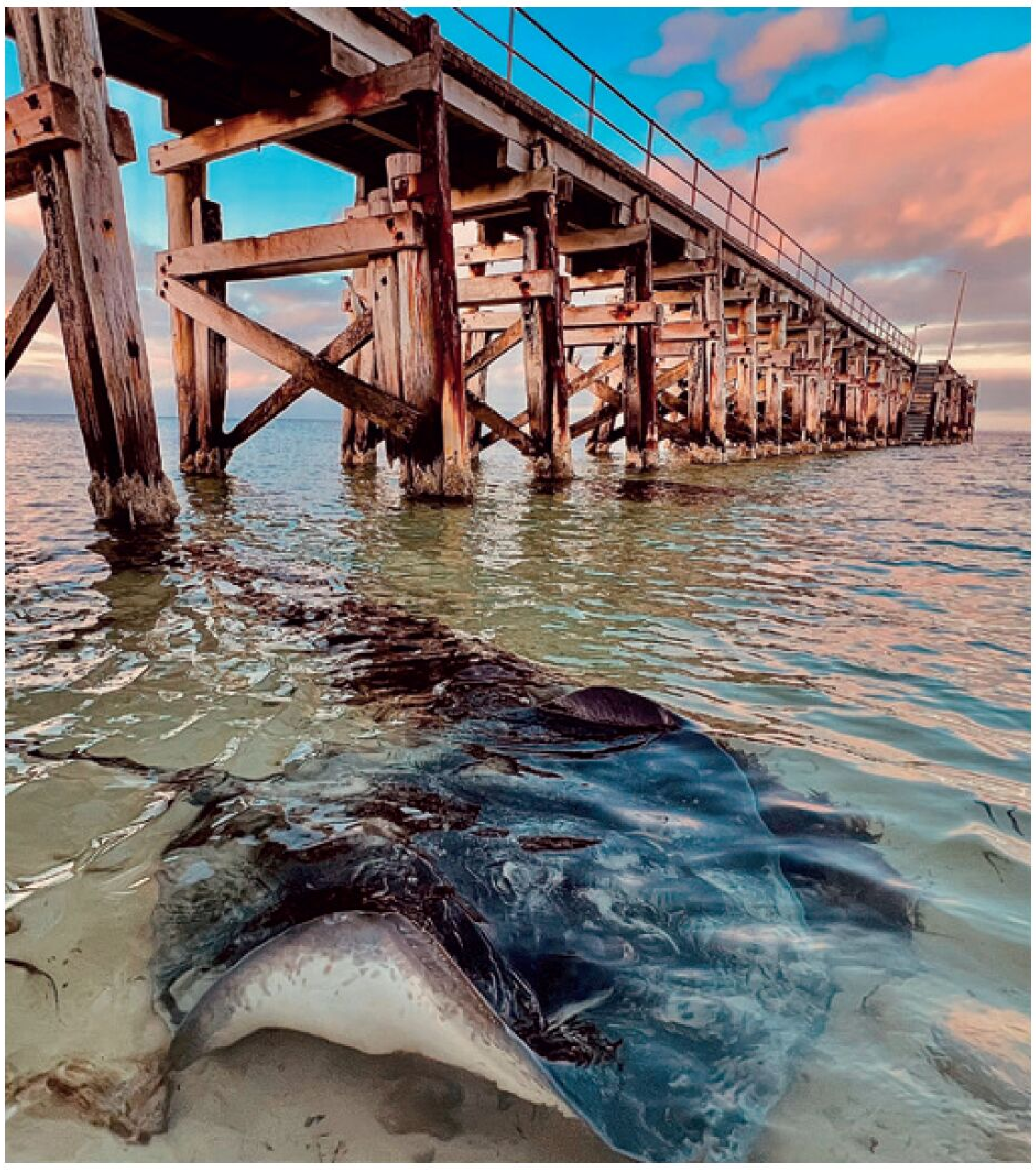
Port Vincent is a beautiful, peaceful coastal town, with a magnificent coastline and sheltered bay – it's a place to do as much or as little as you like, with a safe swimming beach to snorkel, go crabbing, paddleboard and kayak.

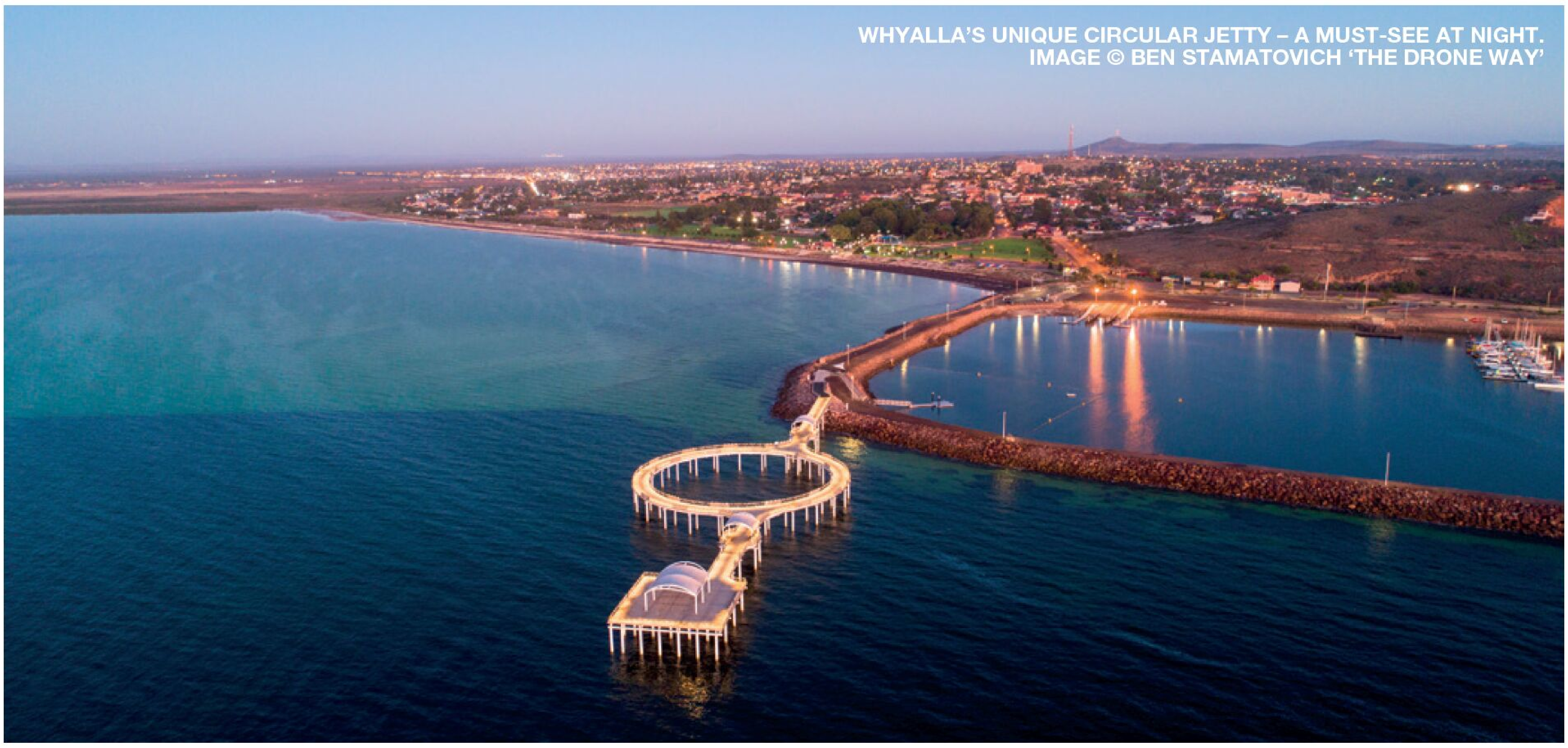
The park is a warm, friendly space that is centrally located in the township, and within easy walking distance to all facilities and beaches on two sides.

Yorketown Caravan Park

Surrounded by about 200 salt lakes, Yorketown has a history based initially on harvesting those lakes. Today, the crystal formations are a boon for photographers as the red, pink and white salt flakes of the lakes catch the eye.

Situated among picturesque and peaceful gardens, the Yorketown Caravan Park is the ideal central location to position yourself to explore the southern end of the Yorke Peninsula, with access to a thriving business and service centre.





WHYALLA'S UNIQUE CIRCULAR JETTY – A MUST-SEE AT NIGHT. IMAGE © BEN STAMATOVICH 'THE DRONE WAY'

Unearth Whyalla

Gateway to the Eyre Peninsula.

Boasting 300 days of sunshine; ancient, stacked shingle dunes; spectacular sunsets; extensive maritime heritage; a dramatic steelworks industry; and one of the world's most extraordinary marine aggregations, Whyalla is the place to ignite your spirit and find your wild side.

Whyalla's multi-award-winning circular jetty is an unmissable feature of Whyalla's impressive foreshore, and is the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Bespoke lighting has been installed along the entire length of the handrailing, creating a 24/7 experience with a wonderful ambience at night. Accessibility is key to the design, with a 45-metre access ramp, open sections to admire the view, and six sliding shelves on the top handrail for children and people living with disability to access and fish from. Be sure to keep a look out for the majestic mosaic cuttlefish seat overlooking the marina activities.

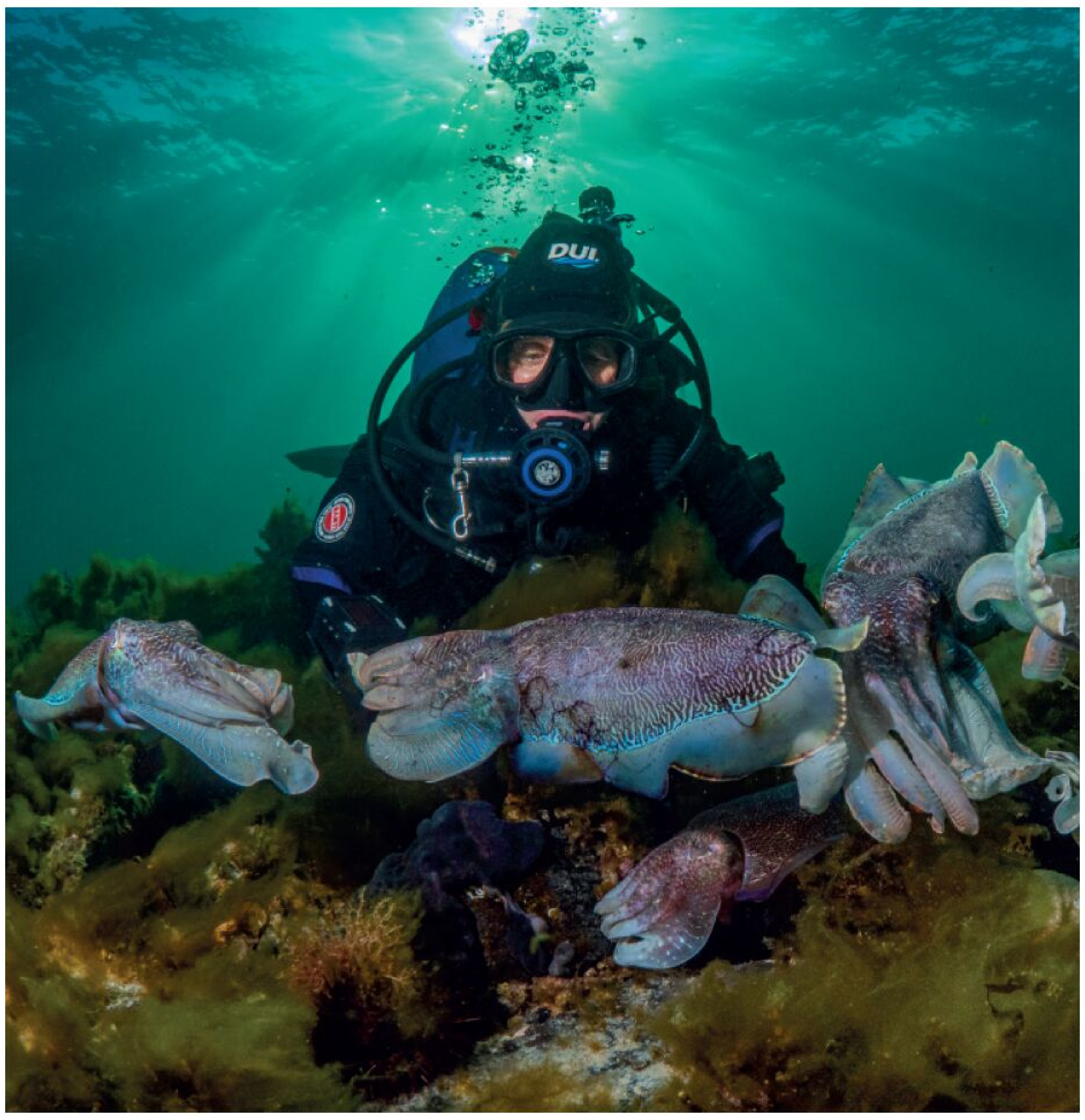
While exploring the foreshore, you may be lucky enough to watch the friendly local dolphins playing in the marina or along the coast by the Point Lowly Lighthouse. Take a journey along Fitzgerald Bay and marvel at the unique geographical phenomena of the state heritage–listed Shingle Beach ridges. There are only two other places in the world – Egypt and Scotland – with similar shingle ridges.

Feel the heat and witness the spectacle of red-hot coals emerging from the massive coke ovens at the Whyalla Steelworks, and learn about the transformation of locally mined ore into iron and steel. You can also experience the Whyalla Maritime Museum, climbing aboard the former HMAS *Whyalla* warship – the first ship built at the Whyalla Shipyards in 1941, which is now landlocked two kilometres from the sea and two metres above ground.

During winter, witness the camouflage antics and colourful mating rituals of Whyalla's distinctive giant cuttlefish. The annual migration of the Australian giant cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*) is one of the most spectacular natural events in the Australian marine environment. This amazing phenomenon occurs nowhere else in the world, and is a must-do adventure between May and August each year. You can snorkel or dive, or if you prefer to have all the thrills without getting your feet wet, then book in for a glass-bottom boat tour.

Whyalla has two caravan parks. Alternatively, you may prefer to pull in and set up in one of Whyalla's favourite camping spots, complete with magnificent costal views and the stunning southern Flinders Ranges across the waterline. The Point Lowly Marina offers budget camping options with toilets, showers and dump point access. Designated camping spots are located across 12 kilometres of spectacular coastline.

For more information, visit whyalla.com or call 1800 088 589.



WHYALLA'S AMAZING GIANT AUSTRALIAN CUTTLEFISH ATTRACT VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. IMAGE © SCOTT PORTELLI

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Top 10
Top End views

BY RUBY O'BRIEN

Looking to up your Insta game, feel like flexing your photography skills, or just want to show the fam back home what you've been up to? Here are 10 of the most stunning photo-worthy destinations in the Northern Territory – in no particular order.

Ormiston Gorge. Image © Tourism NT; Mark Fitzpatrick

Ŋalarrk (Lonely Beach), East Arnhem Land. Image © Tourism NT; Mark Fitzpatrick

Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park. Image © Tourism NT; Joshua Griffen

Ah, the Northern Territory – one of the most beautiful destinations in all of Australia! Sure, Queensland has the tropics, New South Wales is home to some ripper beaches, Tassie is a nature lover's paradise, Western Australia is vast and almighty, Victoria is home to our buzzing coffee capital, and Canberra is full of politicians (we still love you, Canberra!) … but the Northern Territory? There's something magical about the Top End. Here, the landscape feels all-knowing and wise, with sacred sites and monolithic rocks. The desert's ruby red soil against the azure skies makes for an epic contrast, and the abundance of natural beauty – lush rainforests, picture-perfect beaches, and heritage-listed natural wonders – is completely and utterly mesmerising. So, whip out the camera and get exploring! Here are 10 of our favourite views in the Top End.

1.ŊALARRK (LONELY BEACH), EAST ARNHEM LAND

Ŋalarrk (Lonely Beach), in East Arnhem Land, is a slice of paradise. This stunning beach is roughly 90 minutes from Nhulunbuy, and is arguably the most iconic site in the region. Azure water and white stretches of sand are surrounded by impressive limestone cliffs, and the dunes offer up an epic vantage point for the entire beach below. To get here requires some prep – a four-wheel drive is required, as is some sand driving. Potable water is also not available at this location, and it is home to an array of native wildlife. Ŋalarrk (Lonely Beach) is also only accessible through an organised tour with Bawaka Experience.

2. FLORENCE FALLS, LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

Located 90 minutes south of Darwin, Litchfield National Park is home to some epic displays of Mother Nature. Covering 1500 square kilometres of pristine and sacred rainforest, the park is home to some ripper fishing spots, as well as some jaw-dropping waterfalls. One of the best in the national park is Florence Falls. Here, you'll walk through the rainforest and descend into an area full of deep natural pools, surrounded by dramatic sandstone gorges. The cooling, cascading waterfall and pool below make Florence Falls the ultimate hidden oasis for any visitor.

3. KINGS CANYON RIM WALK, WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK

Travel about 3.5 hours west of the Red Centre and you'll find Watarrka National Park. Kings Canyon, located within the national park, features 300-metre-high sandstone walls that tower above the Garden of Eden – a stunning rock hole surrounded by rare native plants and luscious palms. The Kings Canyon Rim Walk is one of the best ways to explore the area's rich, terracotta-coloured landscape. You can even admire The Lost City and Priscilla's Crack (best known for its appearance in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*).

4. KARLU KARLU/DEVILS MARBLES

The Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve is a must-visit destination for anyone keen to explore the Northern Territory's most photo-worthy sites. Located about halfway between Alice Springs and Daly Waters, Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles are huge, ruby red boulders that dramatically balance upon the rocky terrain. It's an incredible sight, and once you're done marvelling at these spectacular natural formations, it's a perfect photo op!

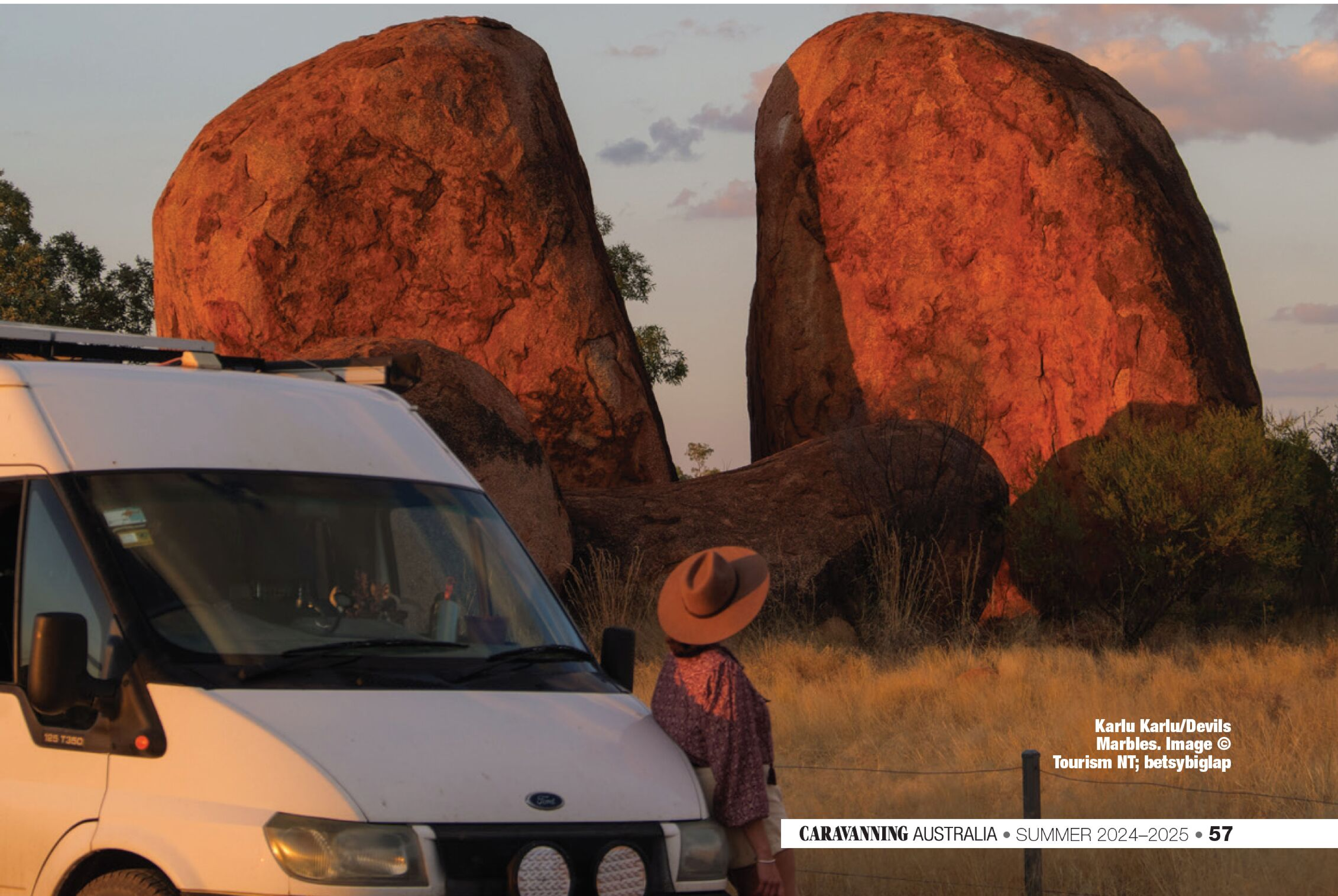
Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge. Image © Tourism NT; Nic Morley

5. ORMISTON GORGE, WEST MACDONNELL RANGES

Roughly 135 kilometres west of Alice Springs, Ormiston Gorge awaits. Located within the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park, Ormiston Gorge is the perfect place to cool off in the heat. The near-permanent waterhole is ideal for swimming, and is up to 14 metres deep at its southern end! If you'd prefer to kick back and relax, then the sandy banks flanked by towering red cliffs and shady native trees are a perfect spot to enjoy a good book. For those who'd rather test their endurance, the Ormiston Pound Walk is a four-hour circuit that sees walkers cross the dramatic landscape – and be rewarded with stunning views, of course!

6. NITMILUK (KATHERINE) GORGE, NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

Located within the stunning Nitmiluk National Park, less than 30 minutes from the town of Katherine, Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge is truly a bucket-list destination. Characterised by jagged, towering gorges surrounding aquamarine pools below, Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge is a 13-gorge system that meanders around the Katherine River that flows through the national park. You can take a dip in the water, or even enjoy canoeing and kayaking. For those who would rather be dry, the gorge can still be enjoyed from the banks thanks to plenty of walking, hiking and mountain-bike riding opportunities. To access this magnificent place, please note that you'll need a Northern Territory parks pass.



Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles. Image © Tourism NT; betsybiglap

Palm Valley, Finke Gorge National Park. Image © Tourism NT; Jake Appleby

TROOPCARRIERS AUSTRALIA

7. WALPA GORGE, KATA TJUṮA (THE OLGAS)

Back in the Red Centre, Kata Tjuṯa (also known as The Olgas) awaits! Around 50 kilometres from Uluru, Kata Tjuṯa is home to more than 35 impressive dome-shaped rocks, which cover an area of more than 20 square kilometres. Walpa Gorge, nestled between the region's striking red cliffs, is a popular photo-worthy destination – and for good reason! Walpa Gorge is a desert refuge for native flora and fauna, and even boasts some stunning wildflowers in late winter and early spring.

8. PALM VALLEY, FINKE GORGE NATIONAL PARK

On the way to Walpa Gorge, Finke Gorge National Park is absolutely worth a stop for all nature lovers! The spectacular national park covers around 46,000 hectares, and is home to the incredible Palm Valley. Palm Valley is home to around 3000 palm trees – the lush greenery shoots up from the red earth and provides welcome shade to visitors during the heat. Finke Gorge National Park itself is also pretty amazing – it's home to one of the oldest rivers in the world, and is a maze of sandstone amphitheatres, gorges and pinnacles – it's easy to spend a day (or several!) here.

9. NAWURLANDJA LOOKOUT, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Kakadu National Park is one of the most famous national parks in Australia – and for good reason. This incredible World Heritage–listed region covers nearly 20,000 square kilometres, and is home to a range of cultural and natural experiences that are bound to take your breath away. One of the best places to soak up Kakadu's spectacular views is via Nawurlandja Lookout. These world-class views across the Anbangbang Billabong and the sprawling Kakadu landscape are second to none. To get here, you'll need to venture along the Nawurlandja Lookout Walk, where you'll be treated to endless views. We recommend coming here during sunrise or sunset!

10. GUNN POINT PENINSULA

Last, but certainly not least, Gunn Point Peninsula is one of the Top End's best beach destinations. Only an hour from Darwin, Gunn Point is a playground for eager anglers, campers and beach bums alike. While it's not recommended to swim here thanks to the saltwater crocodiles that call this place home all year round, the views are incredible, and four-wheel driving tracks make for a fun way to explore the landscape. ↙

Nawurlandja Lookout, Kakadu. Image © Tourism NT; Helen Orr

A hidden Red Centre gem

Gemtree Roadhouse and Caravan Park, located in the heart of Australia's Red Centre, isn't just a stopover; it's an experience. Located amid the rugged beauty of the outback, it serves as a gateway to some of the most breathtaking natural wonders in the Northern Territory.

The charm of Gemtree lies in its seamless blend of rustic appeal and warm hospitality. It's a place where travellers can reconnect with nature, with sprawling landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see. The clear, star-studded skies are a stargazer's dream, offering a nightly spectacle of celestial beauty.

The caravan park itself is thoughtfully equipped, providing everything from powered sites to comfortable cabins, ensuring that every visitor can find the perfect accommodation to suit their needs. It's more than just a place to park your van; it's a community hub where stories are shared around camp fires, and friendships are forged under the vast, open sky.

The surrounding area is rich with opportunities for adventure. Whether you're fossicking for gemstones, exploring the Binns Track, or simply soaking in the serenity of the bush, Gemtree Roadhouse and Caravan Park offers an authentic taste of outback life that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime. It's a true gem in the heart of Australia.

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GEMTREE
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Highway to heaven

BY ADAM O'BRIEN

Running 1800 kilometres from the Gold Coast to Cairns, the Pacific Coast Way hugs one of the most naturally endowed coastlines on Earth.

Finch Hatton Gorge. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

Australia Zoo. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

Noosa National Park. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

Queensland has 237 national parks. That's more than any other country – let alone state – boasts. The majority are concentrated around the stunning coastline between the New South Wales border and Cairns, easily accessible from the Pacific Coast Highway. Along the way, you will pass surfing meccas where the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean crash onto white shorelines. There are laid-back hinterland towns with lovingly restored pubs and surrounded by lush forest, and national parks filled with waterfalls, rock pools, birdsong and hiking trails. Offshore, there are reef-fringed islands, and further north are rolling farmlands and world-class resorts. The natural magnetism of this route has inspired many a sea change.

THE GOLD COAST

As you would expect, there are a lot of great surf spots in and around Surfers Paradise, including Burleigh Heads, where the swell swings around the headland and peels off perfectly at one of the best point breaks in Australia. A short walk from the beach, a coastal path takes you into the clifftops and the dense subtropical rainforest of Burleigh Head National Park, which gently rises to Tumgun Lookout and its panoramic views over the Pacific Ocean and the surrounding hinterland.

Springbrook National Park is a short drive into the hinterland from Burleigh Heads, but is home to a vastly different landscape from the coast. It's an ancient volcanic formation with a one-kilometre-high plateau carved out with deep gorges and lofty ridges, fringed with cool-temperate rainforest and fragrant eucalypts. There are several great hikes and lookouts in the park, including Purling Brook Falls Circuit, with a waterfall that drops over 100 metres into the rainforest, complete with a vertigo-inducing lookout.

THE SUNSHINE COAST

At Noosa, you can enjoy the manicured coastal life. You don't have to search far to work out why this place is attracting growing crowds of the uber-wealthy. A dip in the warm waves, a hike around Noosa National Park, out via the headland and the antithetically named Hell's Gates lookout, followed by a leisurely stroll back into a pub along Hastings Street is not a horrible way to spend a day. If you want to get crazy at dinner, you can really take a chunk out of the savings account at one of Noosa's many great restaurants. There is Lucio's Marina, one of the most celebrated around town, for some Northern Italian with a coastal twist. Sails is another great option, where you walk right off the sand at Main Beach into fine dining and one of Australia's best wine lists. For a humbler outing, Australia Zoo is close by, made famous by the Crocodile Hunter, the late and great Steve Irwin.

K'GARI

K'gari, formerly known as Fraser Island, is the largest sand island in the world at 123 kilometres long, and is the only sand island

K'gari. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

that supports rainforest. Renamed out of respect to its traditional owners, K'gari roughly translates to 'paradise' – a term that could easily describe this entire journey. K'gari is a great spot for a day or more of driving and camping. There are plenty of attractive towns on the mainland to rest the caravan if you're not confident towing on the island. Access to the island is via the ferry from Rainbow Beach, which allows off-road vehicles only. Several off-road companies operate tours on K'gari, but it is fine to trek alone.

Seventy Five Mile Beach is a sand highway with an 80-kilometre-per-hour speed limit that runs along the wilder, surf side of the island. Sand tracks with a limit of 35 kilometres per hour branch off from the highway, zigzagging the island, linking inland lakes and rainforests. Along Seventy Five Mile Beach, be careful not to run into the SS *Maheno*, the island's resident shipwreck. Forced onto the island during a cyclone in 1935, it has slowly deteriorated with each passing tide, but it's a welcome surprise as the rusty hull grows on the horizon as you roar along the coast.

BUNDABERG

As the southern gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, the Bundaberg region possesses an unspoilt 140 kilometres of coastline, with several national parks and coral cays worth a visit. Seventeen Seventy, 120 kilometres north of Bundaberg, is both the historical second landing point for Captain Cook, and the last stop before the Great Barrier Reef completely hems in the continent – making it the last surf break on the east coast. It still has a small-town feel, but is experiencing a slow-moving makeover and might soon rank among Queensland's high-roller coastal resorts. Nevertheless, it's a beautiful, laid-back place – the kind where a 'for sale' sign sets the imagination running.

Burleigh Head National Park. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

ROCKHAMPTON

The fact that most of Queensland's tourist crowds are far from here is half the appeal of Rocky and the Capricorn Coast. Another attractive aspect is how elegantly planned the city is. During the late 19th century, Rockhampton expected to be declared the capital of a speculated seventh state to be named 'Central Queensland'. They got to work building many

Great Keppel Island. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

Eungella National Park. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

structures of architectural and aesthetic note – it maintains one of the highest concentrations of heritage-listed buildings anywhere in Australia. The man-made splendour of Quay Street, which is the longest National Trust Heritage Street in Australia, is complemented by the mighty Fitzroy River.

The Fitzroy River is Queensland's largest, and runs right through the city. The occasional crocodile has been sighted along its banks, and it's not unusual to see eager anglers pull out a barramundi in the middle of town. But it's the steak that gets the headlines around here. Rocky is the 'Beef Capital of Australia'. If you didn't know this before arriving, the larger-than-life cattle figurines garnishing the streets soon get the message across.

YEPPOON

Yeppoon is another growing coastal resort town and the main access point to Great Keppel (Wop-pa) Island. Yeppoon and Keppel offer less-developed alternatives to the Whitsundays, with just as extensive a collection of glorious beaches (watch out for the jellyfish). Much like Seventeen Seventy, this area's tourism standing is likely to increase, but is still an affordable getaway without the crushing

Passions of Paradise – Great Barrier Reef Tours. Image © Tourism and Events Queensland

crowds. The Keppel Islands, a group of 18, sit just offshore. Great Keppel, the largest of the group, is 15 kilometres from the mainland. Great Keppel has 17 white sandy beaches and some of the highest cover of hard corals of the entire Great Barrier Reef, which reaches 2600 kilometres north to the tip of Queensland. This is one of the better diving spots in Australia thanks to year-round clear waters.

MACKAY

Mackay's proximity to the Great Barrier Reef and several rainforests makes it an ideal spot for outdoor adventures, including snorkelling, fishing, exploring ancient rainforests, and spotting rare wildlife. Much of the Pacific Coast Way's allure revolves around the coast, but a little way inland, Eungella National Park provides some cool mountain respite. The waterfalls and swimming holes of Finch Hatton Gorge are worth your while, but Broken River is the main drawcard because it's one of the few spots on the planet where you are pretty much guaranteed to see a wild platypus. The park's Sky Window Circuit walk offers stunning views over The Pioneer Valley, while Cape Hillsborough National Park, just north of Mackay, is famous for its sunrise kangaroo encounters on the beach. This coastal park also offers rugged headlands, rainforest trails, and tidal rock pools brimming with marine life.

CAIRNS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The reef's biodiversity includes more than 1500 species of fish and 400 types of hard coral. Cairns Marlin Marina is the hub for catching cruises out to the reef. There are countless companies offering tours. There are family-centred options at the floating pontoon on Moore Reef, which has an underwater observatory and a water slide. There are marine biologist–led tours, Indigenous tours, scuba-diving expeditions, glass-bottom boat tours and dinner cruises. When choosing a tour, it's recommended that you look for those committed to reef conservation and sustainability. Many operators in Cairns are eco-certified and participate in programs that support reef health monitoring, protection and regrowth, mindful that climate change continues to threaten the reef's existence.

For a different perspective of Far North Queensland, the Kuranda Scenic Railway links Carins with the charming village of Kuranda. The journey takes a historical route, constructed 120 years ago, offering views of waterfalls, deep gorges and lush valleys, travelling over 55 bridges and through 15 hand-carved tunnels. Audio commentary in each carriage gives a historical overview throughout the journey. The railway winds through part of the World Heritage–listed Wet Tropics of Queensland rainforest, a collection of 10 national parks recognised internationally for their ancient ancestry, and unique plants and wildlife. The Wet Tropics are home to the oldest continuously surviving tropical rainforests on Earth. ↙

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Nellies Glen, Budderoo National Park. Image © Destination NSW

Five reasons to visit New South Wales this summer

BY EDEN COX

New South Wales in summer is vibrant and lively, with more than enough sunshine for even the most avid heat-seeker. This edition, we take a look at five of the state's best drawcards this summer.

Echo Point Lookout, Blue Mountains. Image © Destination NSW

It might seem limited to showcase just five of New South Wales's most inviting offerings when there are countless reasons to visit the state in the summer months. Coastal areas draw larger and larger crowds as the season progresses, particularly at iconic beaches like Bondi and Manly. In contrast, the countryside boasts lush greenery, perfect for hiking and exploring national parks at slightly cooler temperatures.

Yes, there are plenty of reasons to visit New South Wales, but these five offerings will plant the seed of adventure! Read on and you're sure to be adding some of these local experiences to your next road-trip itinerary.

1. WATERFALLS

The New England High Country region of New South Wales is a wonderful destination at any time of year, but the abundance of waterfalls makes it particularly appealing in summer, when the cool spray is most welcome. This region features way more than its fair share of waterfalls, so do a little research and note down a few before you head off.

Put Ebor Falls on your itinerary for a sunny day if you're in the mood for a picnic! A short drive from the small town of Ebor, along the Waterfall Way, is the Guy Fawkes River National Park, home of Ebor Falls. The falls are wide and two-tiered, with the main plunge cascading 100 metres into the pristine valley below. There are well-maintained walking trails and three scenic lookouts offering panoramic views. You can't swim here, but the picnic spots are topnotch!

If you'd rather get your feet wet, bring your swimmers on a visit to Boonoo Boonoo Falls, located 27 kilometres from Tenterfield within Boonoo Boonoo National Park. Take one of the many walking trails, and keep your eyes peeled for wallabies, kangaroos, native birds and, of course, tempting swimming spots in secluded rock pools. The trail ends at the falls, where the Boonoo Boonoo River plunges 210 metres over a granite cliff into the gorge and rainforest beneath. If you have a special question to pop, take your beloved to the romantic falls viewing platform – here is where poet Banjo Paterson proposed to his sweetheart, Alice Walker.

2. SECRET SWIMMING HOLES

New South Wales is a haven for those who love freshwater swimming. Whether it's lagoons, lakes, creeks or rivers you prefer, you'll find plenty of opportunities to cool down in summer. But to add to the adventure, why not seek out some hidden spots to dip in a toe?

Nellies Glen is a great place to start your secret swimming tour of New South Wales. Located in Budderoo National Park in the Southern Highlands region, this bush glen offers a picturesque swimming hole and a waterfall to boot. Lush vegetation gives the spot a secluded feel, while the smooth rocks around the edges of the water provide a place to dry off and relax. Adventurous types can even get in behind the waterfall.

If you're planning on travelling a little further north in your summer adventures, seek out the Pool of Siloam, Lyrebird Dell and Weeping Rock swimming spots, all in the Blue Mountains near Leura.

The Pool of Siloam is a great option for travellers with kids, as the water is not too deep, and the bottom is soft and sandy. The waterfall that feeds the pool here is also kid-sized, making it a peaceful and picturesque spot to spend the day.

Lyrebird Dell offers a similarly gentle waterfall, and big and small kids alike will relish exploring the cave that sheltered local Aboriginal people for centuries. Weeping Rock falls takes your waterfall experience up just a notch, and its rock pools provide a cool spot to soak your weary feet.

3. STUNNING LOOKOUTS

If you spend most of the year in a city, you probably get tired of looking at the same roads, houses and office blocks. Expand your horizons – literally – and exercise those eye muscles with a tour of some of the best lookouts in the state (and possibly country!).

There are so many to choose from, but the Blue Mountains offers one of the county's most photographed views – and for good reason! Head to the Blue Mountains National Park and make a beeline for Echo Point lookout. Here, you will find the famous view of the Three Sisters rock formation. The lookout is also the gateway to other walks in the area, such as the Three Sisters walk and the Prince Henry Cliff walk, which offer yet more scenic lookouts.

If you prefer your lookouts to expand way out into the vast blue ocean, then head to the Byron Bay area for the Cape Byron Walking Track to the lighthouse, the easternmost point of mainland Australia. While the 3.7-kilometre loop of the Cape Byron walking trail will require about two hours of your time, it affords stunning coastal and hinterland views. Watch the water for a glimpse of local turtles, dolphins and stingrays.

Cape Byron Walking Track, Byron Bay. Image © Destination NSW

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4. FISH AND CHIPS

Nothing says summer quite like fresh fish and chips. Luckily, New South Wales has some incredible dining options when it comes to this classic. Almost every seaside town in the state boasts a fish and chippery, so make your list and tour the best on offer this summer. Here are just a couple to consider.

As we all know, fish and chips is a meal best enjoyed in the open air (even if you do have to fend off hungry wildlife!). While the beach is the classic picnic location for such a meal, why not mix it up a little and try picnicking in an inland location? Family-owned fish and chippery Heathcote Fish & Chips is close to the stunning Heathcote National Park, so you can take your hot parcel into the wilderness for a change of scenery. Operating since 1960, the team behind the counter has perfected the art of this quintessential summer meal.

If you're a traditional fish and chip connoisseur, and would rather take your chances with the seagulls at the beach, then head to Out Of The Blue in Coogee. Located right near the tiny Clovelly Beach, this fish and chip shop is very popular with locals and visitors alike. The batter is crispy, the chips are hot and, if you're in the mood for something different, the burgers have a great reputation.

5. MUSEUMS

While may of us love the warm weather, sometimes the Australian summer just goes overboard on the heat! Extra hot days are no problem in New South Wales, with a plethora of air-conditioned, indoor attractions. There are 94 museums in Sydney offering a range of experiences to tickle every visitor's fancy.

Start at the Museum of Sydney, which was built on the ruins of the house of the first Governor of New South Wales, Arthur Phillip. Here is where you can get a great introduction to the history of Sydney itself, including both colonial and contemporary themes. Panoramic images of Sydney that take viewers through time from 1788 to the present day are an eye-opening highlight. See the the works of First Nations artists in the temporary exhibition 'Coomaditchie: The Art of Place', which runs until 2 February 2025.

If you want to experience more of the wonderful world, head to the Australian Museum, where science, culture and nature come together. This is Australia's first museum, and it holds more than 21 million objects. You can explore the museum with free general admission, or level up your experience with entry to the immersive exhibition 'Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru'. Either way, you're free to explore in air-conditioned comfort all day long! ↙

Australian Museum, Sydney. Image © Destination NSW

The *spectacular* Kiama Coast is waiting for you…

Photo credit Destination Kiama

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Summer vibes in Gunnedah

Ready to soak up the summer vibes? Gunnedah Shire is calling your name! This charming all-year-round destination lights up with unique experiences during every season. Even in the summer heat, Gunnedah has some cool options.

As you drive into Gunnedah, no matter which direction you're coming from you'll be greeted by vast stretches of vibrant agricultural land. Sunflowers in brilliant yellow, rusty red sorghum, and fields of snowy white cotton all paint a stunning tapestry across the paddocks, giving you a sneak peek of the beauty to come.

Summer in Gunnedah is all about cooling off and kicking back. Start with a splash at Gunnedah's fabulous local pool or relax with a shaded picnic in one of its picturesque parks. Prefer something indoors? Escape the heat at one of the town's air-conditioned gems, like the Gunnedah Rural Museum. Open since 1992, the museum boasts Australia's largest collection of early pioneering history. You'll find quirky, rare treasures, homemade artefacts, and even a massive collection of agricultural tractors and Arnott's biscuit tins – a truly unique and nostalgic treat!

Just a hop, skip and jump from the museum, you'll discover Pensioners Hill. Here, you'll be greeted by four stunning heritage sculptures that celebrate Gunnedah's rich cultural tapestry – from ancient Dreamtime legends, to modern history. Each sculpture tells its own fascinating story, with icons like the Red Chief, a coal miner, and a pioneer woman all intricately designed to bring Gunnedah's past to life. The Red Chief sculpture, for instance, honours Cumbo Gunnerah, a legendary Kamilaroi leader, whose story was immortalised in Ion Idriess's book, *The Red Chief*. Be sure to grab a pamphlet from the Visitor Information Centre to dive into the rich meanings behind each piece!

After wandering through history at Pensioners Hill, it's time to cool down again, so why not head over to the Bicentennial Creative Arts Gallery? Feast your eyes on a stunning collection of murals and art exhibitions – from vibrant permanent pieces, to ever-changing displays that will leave you inspired.

And for those road-trippers and adventurers, Gunnedah has three fantastic options for parking your caravan or motorhome. Whether you want all the creature comforts at the Gunnedah Tourist Caravan Park, a bit more space at the Gunnedah Showground RV Park Camping, or the simplicity of the CMCA RV Park for the self-contained, Gunnedah has got you covered. So, what are you waiting for? Pack your bags, hit the road, and make Gunnedah Shire your ultimate summer escape!

PENSIONERS HILL, GUNNEDAH

Gunnedah

Open New Horizons

Summer Vibes in Gunnedah!

Gunnedah loves a sunburnt country and can see you enjoying a cool drink at one of our cafes or restaurants, admire the exhibitions at the Rural Museum and the Bicentennial Creative Arts Gallery, swim a lap or two in our fabulous outdoor pool and relax with a refreshing cool drink at one of our welcoming pubs. Stop on your way to and from the Tamworth Country Music Festival or take a day to escape the boot-scooting crowds this summer – visit Gunnedah!

For more information pop in and see us at the Visitor Information Centre for more colourful surprises and talk to our friendly and knowledgeable staff!
visitgunnedah.com.au

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm | Saturday - Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm
83 Chandos St, Gunnedah NSW 2380
☎ 1800 KOALAS . (02) 6740 2230
✉ tourism@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au
@gunnedahnsw #gunnedahnsw

GunnedahShire

Nature, history and culture in Narrabri

Nestled at the base of the Nandewar Range, the Narrabri region is a treasure trove of natural beauty, history and culture. Made up of the larger towns of Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri, alongside a scattering of smaller villages, the region offers something for every visitor – regardless of age or activity level. Each town and village exudes its own country charm and unique attractions, contributing to the area's overall appeal.

Before starting out on your adventures, drop by the Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre for maps, local tips and a photo opportunity in the giant red cotton picker.

One of the region's most stunning features is Mount Kaputar, an extinct volcano that became dormant around 17 million years ago. Its summit, sitting at 1510 metres above sea level, provides visitors with the chance to see up to 10 per cent of New South Wales on a clear day. Adventurers who enjoy nature will be thrilled by the variety of walking tracks.

For geology enthusiasts, Sawn Rocks is a must-see. This impressive 40-foot wall of organ-piping rock is a remnant of the area's volcanic past, with basalt lava formations that have hardened over millennia. A 15-minute walk brings visitors to the base of this natural wonder.

For an out-of-this-world experience, head to the CSIRO Australia Telescope Compact Array. Stand in awe of the six impressive 22-metre-wide dish antennas and dive into the interactive Visitor Centre. Perfect for curious minds, it's an adventure into the universe like no other.

For the culturally inclined, the Wee Waa Arts and Cultural Centre invites you to step behind the yellow door and discover exhibitions featuring local artists. Get inspired by the region's creative talent and immerse yourself in its vibrant arts scene.

For those seeking a deeper cultural experience, the region's connection to Aboriginal heritage is profound. A visit to the Sandstone Caves reveals ancient Aboriginal rock art, while the Sculptures in the Scrub walking track showcases artworks created in collaboration with local Aboriginal elders, telling the story of the region's history.

No visit is complete without a soak in the Pilliga Artesian Bore Baths, where naturally mineral-rich, heated waters provide the perfect spot to unwind after a day of exploring.

The Narrabri region offers visitors a captivating blend of natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and unique attractions, making it a must-visit destination for anyone seeking discovery, adventure and inspiration in the heart of New South Wales.

MOUNT KAPUTAR NATIONAL PARK

Discover New Heights!

THE NARRABRI REGION IS WAITING FOR YOU

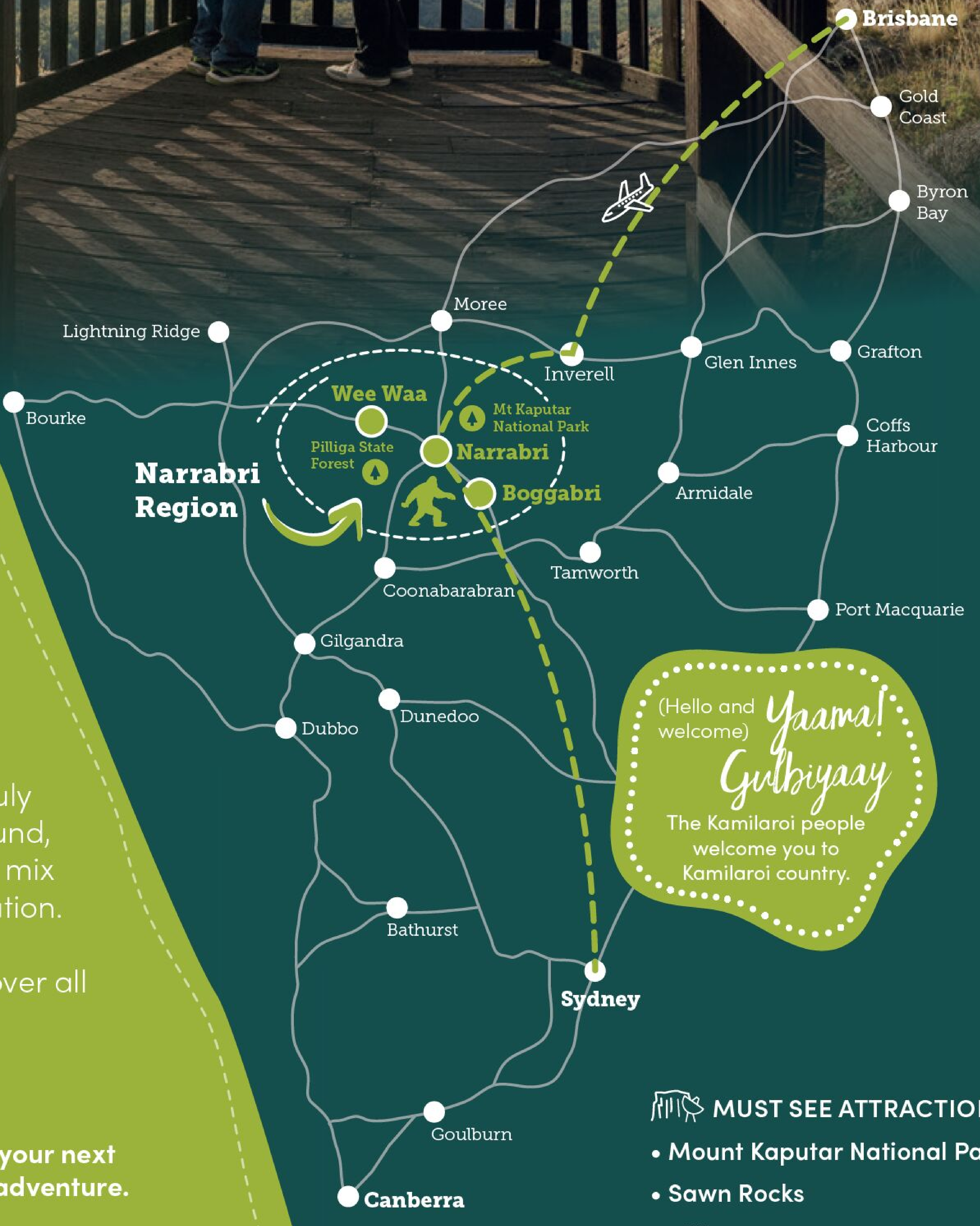
Have you ever camped under 5 million stars?

Experienced the mysteries of the Pilliga Forest?

Or reached the towering heights of Mount Kaputar?

The Narrabri Region is truly Mother Nature's playground, giving visitors the perfect mix of relaxation and exploration.

We welcome you to discover all we have to offer.


Brisbane
Gold Coast
Byron Bay
Moree
Lightning Ridge
Inverell
Glen Innes
Grafton
Bourke
Wee Waa
Mt Kaputar National Park
Pilliga State Forest
Narrabri
Boggabri
Narrabri Region
Coffs Harbour
Armidale
Tamworth
Coonabarabran
Port Macquarie
Gilgandra
Dunedoo
Dubbo
Bathurst
Sydney
Goulburn
Canberra

(Hello and welcome) *Yaama! Gulbiyaay*

The Kamilaroi people welcome you to Kamilaroi country.

Start planning your next extraordinary adventure.

EXPLORENARRABRIREGION.COM.AU

explore NARRABRI region

MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS

- Mount Kaputar National Park
- Sawn Rocks
- Pilliga State Forest
- CSIRO Australia Telescope
- Pilliga Artesian Bore Baths
- Deriah Aboriginal Area

Sun, surf and serenity

BY KATE HUTCHESON

Relax and unwind as you uncover New South Wales's North Coast.

Merewether Baths, Newcastle. Image © Destination NSW

Forster. Image © Destination NSW

This summer, embark on an unforgettable journey along the North Coast of New South Wales, where pristine landscapes, vibrant wildlife and rich Indigenous heritage meet in spectacular fashion. Stretching from Newcastle all the way up to Byron Bay, this nature-filled road trip is sure to have you feeling more and more relaxed with every twist of the road.

NEWCASTLE TO FORSTER

167 kilometres

Begin your northerly journey in vibrant Newcastle, the busiest seaport in New South Wales that also happens to be Australia's second-oldest colonial city. Begin your time here by familiarising yourself with the area's past with a visit to Newcastle Museum, which tells the story of Newcastle's convict-era history.

To truly appreciate the history of the Newcastle area, be sure to take the time to learn about the Indigenous history of the city and its lands. Just outside of Newcastle, you'll find the Worimi Conservation Lands, which are the largest moving sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. While here, take part in a unique cultural tour with Sand Dune Adventures. On the 1.5-hour Aboriginal Culture & Sand Boarding Quad Bike Tour, you'll learn all about the local Indigenous history with a fun twist!

Back in town, don't miss out on a stroll along Bathers Way, which stretches six kilometres between the Merewether Baths and Nobbys Beach. On this walk, you'll enjoy stunning views of sprawling seascapes, and may be tempted to dip your toes in the cooling water of the Tasman Sea. If swimming in the open sea isn't your cup of tea, then you can still cool off after a long day of exploration by paying a visit to the Newcastle Ocean Baths. These Art Deco–style baths were constructed prior to World War, I and were formally opened in

Newcastle Museum. Image © Destination NSW

Stockton Dunes, Worimi Conservation Lands, Port Stephens. Image © Destination NSW

the 1920s. The baths are still in use year-round by locals and tourists alike.

Less than an hour from Newcastle, you'll find the idyllic township of Nelson Bay, which is known for its marine wildlife and family-friendly beaches. From Nelson Bay, you can depart on a dolphin-watching cruise, as more than 100 dolphins call the surrounding Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park home. If you're in the area later in the year (from May to November), you can also partake in a whale-watching adventure.

On the drive from Nelson Bay to Forster, you'll pass through Myall Lakes National Park, home to New South Wales's largest system of coastal lakes. Due to its abundance of waterways, this national park is the ideal spot for canoeing, kayaking and fishing. Or, if you prefer a calming dip in the ocean or an adrenaline-pumping surf on the waves, then the park also boasts world-class beaches for you to enjoy.

There are plenty of campsites within Myall Lakes National Park, so why not pitch the tent and spend a few days relaxing by the water? While you're here, be sure to visit the tallest known tree in New South Wales, which is just a short stroll from Grandis picnic area.

FORSTER TO PORT MACQUARIE

113 kilometres

The next coastal gem along our journey is Forster, located only an hour's drive north of Myall Lakes National Park. Forster sits on a small section of land between Wallis Lake and the Pacific Ocean, making it the perfect holiday spot for those with an affinity toward all things water-related. Whether you're looking for coastal strolls, sunset cruises, fine dining or world-class fishing, Forster is the place for you.

Feel the sand between your toes and the salt in your hair with a dip in the ocean at Main Beach, a patrolled beach with access to plenty of local cafes and boutiques. Or, if you're looking to immerse yourself in nature, head out to Booti Booti National Park. This strip of parkland is home to towering rainforest, stretching coastlines, stunning views and plenty of walking tracks to explore.

Make your way from Forster towards Port Macquarie, but be sure to take the time to stop by some of the quaint seaside towns along the way. For example, Harrington, located 65 kilometres north of Forster, is a small coastal town, which is perfect for a quiet afternoon stroll or a day spent by the water, casting a line. The town is home to a breakwater that was built back in 1894, and now provides a scenic coastal walk with epic views.

Continue north towards Port Macquarie, and you'll soon pass by Crowdy Bay National Park. This coastal haven is home to vibrant flora and fauna just waiting to be explored along its walking tracks. Consider undertaking the Diamond Head Loop walk, which offers some of the park's most stunning sights. For a truly immersive experience, spend the night at the Diamond Head Campground, where you can fall asleep to the soothing sounds of lapping waves.

Tacking Point Lighthouse, Port Macquarie. Image © Destination NSW

THE BIG BANANA
COFFS HARBOUR

The Big Banana, Coffs Harbour. Image © Destination NSW

PORT MACQUARIE TO COFFS HARBOUR

153 kilometres

If you think the scenery has been breathtaking so far, it's about to get even better as you reach Port Macquarie and immerse yourself in the serenity of the area. If you're keen to see some of Australia's cutest residents, then you're in the right place, as Port Macquarie is home to the largest koala population on the east coast of Australia. To get up close with these furry creatures, and to learn about the rehabilitation efforts in the area, visit the famous Koala Conservation Hospital. You can also pay a visit to Billabong Zoo Koala & Wildlife Park, where you can see even more koalas, as well as some other familiar Australian critters (some cuter than others!).

Fill your lungs with warm summer air on the Sea Acres Rainforest Boardwalk, where you're likely to see some Australian fauna in the wild. This boardwalk rises seven metres into the canopy of the rainforest to allow you to see the rainforest habitat from up among the leaves. This 1.3-kilometre boardwalk is a family-friendly and wheelchair-accessible loop, and there are also guided tours available. You can also learn more about the forest's history, including its significance to the local Birpai people, with a visit to the onsite Sea Acres Rainforest Centre.

The nature-based experiences in the Port Macquarie area are endless, with walking tracks, sandy beaches, breaking swells and marine life around every corner. After filling your outdoor adventure cup, treat yourself by filling your wine glass at one of the area's wineries, like Long Point Vineyard & Art Gallery. If wine isn't your treat of choice, then there's still plenty of options to explore. Why not try out Port Macquarie Distillery or sample fresh, local seafood at Whalebone Wharf?

The journey from Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour is absolutely teeming with the kind of coastal oases that dreams are made of. It's a 'close your eyes and point at the map' situation if you're looking for a charming seaside town to stop at for a meal or a dip. One such locality is South West Rocks, nestled at the mouth of the Macleay River. While you're there, take a walk up to Smoky Cape Lighthouse, and take a moment to soak up the serene views of Hat Head National Park stretching to the south.

COFFS HARBOUR TO BYRON BAY

233 kilometres

When you think of Coffs Harbour, you likely think of one of Australia's most famous attractions: The Big Banana. But trust us, there's much more to see in the heart of the Coffs Coast. So, once you've had your fun at The Big Banana Fun Park (which just so happens to be home to Australia's largest indoor slide!), then take some time to explore everything else the Coffs Harbour has to offer.

Begin your stay with a visit to Niigi Niigi (Sealy Lookout), located just 15 minutes from Coffs Harbour. Niigi Niigi can be found within the Orara East State Forest, and is Coffs Harbour's first eco-certified tourism attraction. While here, be sure to take part in a tour with Giingan Gumbaynggirr Cultural Experience to learn about the history and culture of the traditional owners of the land: the Gumbaynggirr people.

BANANAFEST
6-7 MAY 2023

Forest Sky Pier, Niigi Niigi (Sealy Lookout), Coffs Harbour. Image © Destination NSW

While in Coffs Harbour, you won't find yourself short on places to relax, whether it's down by the water at Jetty Beach, on a peaceful stroll through the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, or sipping a fresh brew at Dark Arts Cafe & Bar – the options endless!

From Coffs Harbour, there's only 2.5 hours of driving left on this North Coast adventure. But, seeing as this is one of the most idyllic stretches of coast along Australia's east, we think it's worth stretching it out. Stop to stretch your legs and soak up even more ocean views at Bundjalung National Park, south of Evans Head. Or, if time is of no concern, stay a night or two within the park and enjoy a walk along Ten Mile Beach, or canoe along the Evans River.

Hit the road one last time and make your way to Byron Bay, where any last stresses that managed to stick around for the journey so far are sure to melt away. Here, there's an abundance of dining experiences, incredible beaches and a jam-packed calendar of events to uncover. ↙

Cape Byron Marine Park. Image © Destination NSW

Thirteen – lucky for some!

Thirteen weeks of summer. Thirteen great adventures in Eurobodalla.

1. Beachside camping
Pitch your camp by the beach, next to a lazy river, or deep in a quiet forest and settle in for your camping adventure. Eurobodalla boasts well over 25 camping grounds and holiday parks with beach, river or lake frontage.

2. National Parks adventures
Visit Eurobodalla National Park for stunning coastal scenery, walks and beachside camping. Alternatively, Murramarang National Park is a favourite with nature lovers and hikers. Explore the vast beauty and rugged terrain of the Deua National Park, or trek the heights of the Mother Mountain in Gulaga National Park.

3. Explore historical villages
Eurobodalla has a rich heritage, which can still be appreciated and admired in the streets and architecture of villages and towns like Moruya, Tilba, Nelligen and Bodalla.

4. Walks and hikes
Pack your hiking boots and walk in the steps of first Australians along the Bingi Dreaming track and the Munjip Trail, or scale Gulaga, the Mother Mountain.

5. Mountain biking trail action
Mogo and Narooma have a combined network of over 150 kilometres of mountain biking trails. Featuring a variety of track skill levels for flow, gravity and technical rides, you'll be pedalling for days!

6. Barunguba Montague Island
Swimming with the seals at Barunguba is a bucket-list item on any holiday itinerary. This island is stunningly beautiful, steeped in history, and flourishing with bird, animal and sea life.

7. Ancient sites
Eurobodalla's coastline predates the dinosaurs. From extinct volcanoes and sandstone cliffs, to kink zones and iron box work!

8. Discover coastal gems
Some of the prettiest coastal villages are hidden from view, and once discovered, they are hard to forget! South Durras, Guerilla Bay, Mossy Point, Moruya Heads, Tuross Head, Potato Point, Dalmeny and Mystery Bay make a worthwhile detour off the main roads and highways.

9. Family day out
Spend a day at Mogo Wildlife Park, hire some kayaks or e-bikes, take a cruise, visit the Bay Pavilions aquapark, explore rock pools, go fishing, or have a picnic in a park!

10. Thirst-quenchers
Sip a local wine or brewed ale at Tilba Valley Winery & Alehouse, enjoy a cold craft beer at Broulee Brewhouse, or sample boutique gins at Foxdog Distillery … and that's just the beginning!

11. Dairy delights
Stock up on delectable local cheese, yoghurt and ice cream at Bodalla Dairy Shed and Tilba Dairy.

12. Bounty of the sea
Be tempted by the freshest Clyde River oysters from Batemans Bay, freshly caught fish from The Boatshed, or the new superfood from Mystery Bay: kelp!

13. Summer events
It's an exciting calendar of summer events with carnivals, fireworks, live music, race days, markets and more. Visit the What's On Eurobodalla website for details.

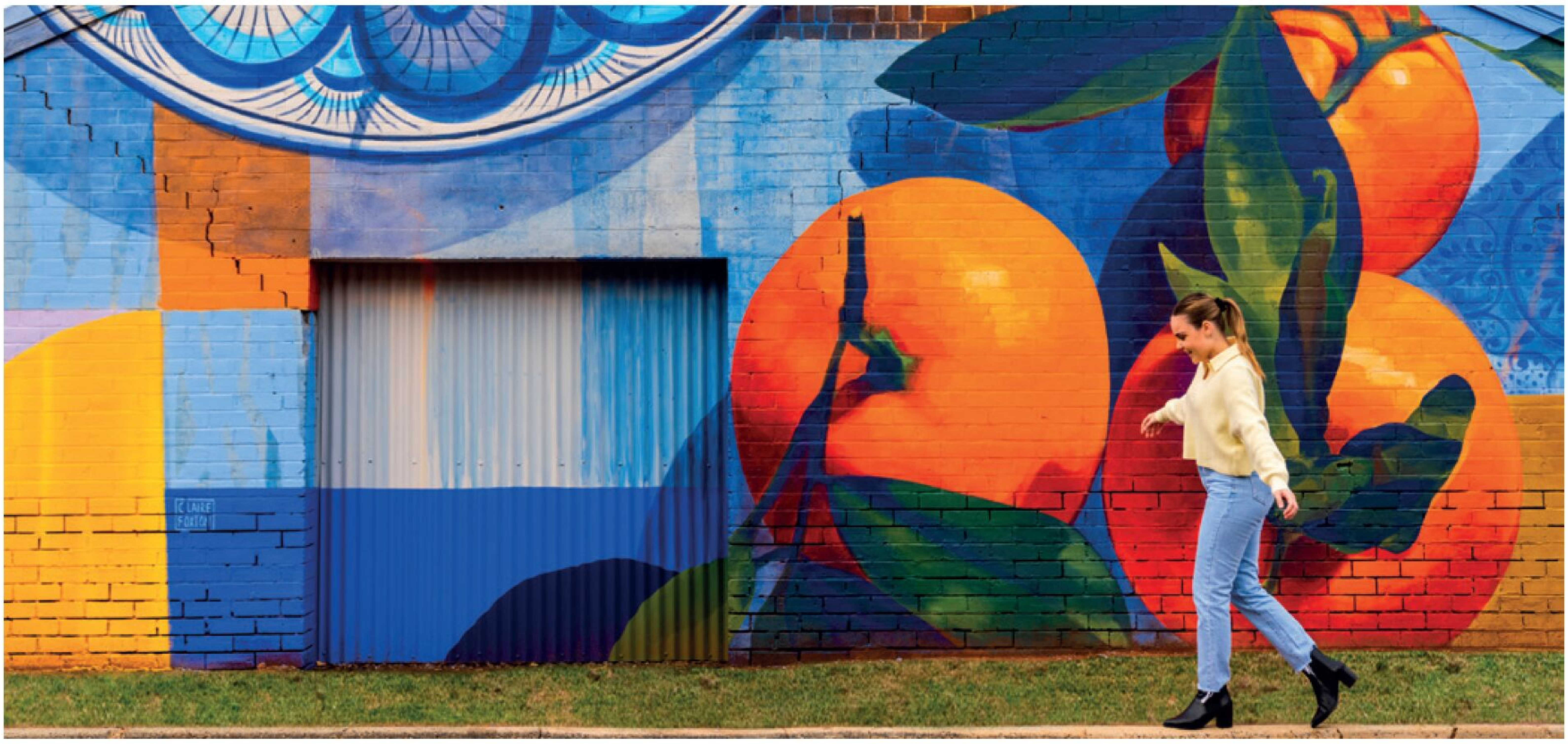
Live More
Adventurously

For a truly extraordinary experience, cruise to Barunguba Montague Island, to dive and snorkel with Australian and NZ fur seals and see NSW's biggest colony of little penguins.

Just one of 13 great adventures to enjoy this summer.

EUROBODALLA
all kinds of natural

Explore more Eurobodalla adventures at eurobodalla.com.au



Celebrate the seasons in Griffith in 2025

Discover Griffith, one of Australia's most vibrant cosmopolitan centres located in the heart of the Riverina. Griffith exudes a rich blend of cultures and traditions, with more than 60 nationalities adding to its cultural tapestry.

Explore the outdoors, historical and cultural museums, or delve into Griffith's local cuisine. Griffith's tree-lined main street, Banna Avenue, offers a unique shopping experience with an impressive selection of clothing, gifts and homewares; a range of wellness experiences; and a wide selection of local eateries and Italian cafes serving great coffee, locally grown food and wine, and house-made gelato.

Explore the annual calendar of events and festivals that make Griffith a must-visit destination for anyone seeking family-friendly experiences. The year kicks off with the Griffith Easter Party, held every Easter long weekend. Brimming with family-friendly activities – from winery events to festivals – there's something for everyone to enjoy.

For those drawn to cultural festivities, A Taste of Italy Griffith in August is an unmissable celebration. Over seven days, the town transforms into 'Little Italy', where you can indulge in authentic cuisine and community spirit that reflects the deep Italian roots of Griffith.

If you prefer to travel in the spring, Griffith Spring Fest in October offers two weeks of events and experiences that celebrate the season. This unique festival features the iconic Citrus Sculptures that transform the main street into a grand display. You can enjoy the annual community street party, and discover a weekend of local open gardens that showcase Griffith in full bloom.

Griffith hosts a range of festivals and year-round activities, including live music, performing arts, and unique exhibitions at its regional art gallery and local theatres. The town's dynamic arts and culture scene ensures there's always something going on for everyone.

No trip is complete without a visit to some of the city's wonderful wineries. Journey through the diverse cellar doors, where larger producers and charming boutique wineries offer experiences to suit every palate. The Riverina wine region is known for its internationally acclaimed botrytis and fortified wines, as well as its red varietals, such as durif and Montepulciano. The region produces one in every four glasses of Australian wine, making the Riverina a true powerhouse in the industry.

Commonly referred to as 'the food bowl of Australia', Griffith has become known for its world-class local food producers and passionate chefs. The Mediterranean-like climate and rich soil make make Griffith the perfect location to grow premium products, such as trellis tomatoes, prunes, nuts, quails and melons, just to name a few. Even the gherkins you eat in every McDonald's burger Australia-wide are grown just down the road!

Griffith, with its world-class food producers, passionate chefs, thriving wine and cultural arts scene, is rapidly becoming a top destination for food enthusiasts and travellers of all ages. Once you experience Griffith's authentic hospitality, it is without a doubt that you will be back for more.

For more information, head to visitgriffith.com.au.

visit griffith
A cultural oasis in the heart of the Riverina...
Mid Western Hwy
Kidman Way
GRIFFITH NSW
Burley Griffin Way
Sturt Hwy
Burley Griffin Way
Newell Hwy
Kidman Way
Newell Hwy
Sturt Hwy

visitgriffith.com.au | 1800 681 141

Gourmet travelling along the Bellarine Taste Trail

BY ADAM O'BRIEN

The Bellarine Peninsula is forcing its way onto foodie to-do lists.

The Q Train. Image © Tourism Australia; Visit Victoria

For years, tourists from all corners have flocked to the Great Ocean Road, not realising that they're narrowly missing one of Australia's – if not the world's – great up-and-coming wine regions: the Bellarine Peninsula. Just east of the Great Ocean Road, the Bellarine Peninsula has wild, undeveloped coastlines of its own on one side, with vineyards tumbling down hillsides into Port Phillip Bay on the other.

A decade ago, topnotch restaurants were few and far between around here, and the night-life could get a little rough and tumble. But slowly, it has transformed from a mostly agricultural community to a sought-after sea change and holiday spot, while still retaining its rural charm.

One of the main reasons the Bellarine Peninsula has become a gastronomic hub is this agricultural heritage. The cool climate, sea breezes and rich soils create ideal growing conditions. A focus on local, seasonal produce is an ethos of the local scene. Many restaurants emphasise sustainability, working directly with local farmers and producers to reduce food miles, and ensure that menus reflect the best the region has to offer.

The broader Geelong and Surf Coast area supports some of Australia's most celebrated wineries and restaurants. Geelong is home to more than 60 wineries and close to 50 cellar doors, nearly all of which are family-owned and -operated. The Geelong wine region is split into three subregions: the Moorabool Valley, the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula. Each has different soils and conditions, along with distinct wine styles. But the key varietals produced in all three are deep and complex pinot noir, chardonnay, and shiraz.

By Farr winery is the pre-eminent brand in the region. Producing since the mid '90s, it's recently gained real acclaim. The Real Review's Australian Winery of the Year in 2022, led by Nick Farr, *Gourmet Traveller*'s Winemaker of the Year in 2020, By Farr is best known for world-class pinot noir. It unfortunately doesn't have a cellar door, but you will see the winerie's offerings on wine lists around the peninsula, and its commendations at home and abroad prove the region's class.

Lethbridge Wines is another stand-out, which opened in 1996 after a three-year search for the perfect terroir by its two scientist-turned-winemaker founders. It is also known for excellent pinot noir and chardonnay, but is not afraid of new techniques and unique varietals for the area, like nebbiolo. At its Hat Rock Vineyard cellar door in Bellarine, you can sit down and sample the range with a tasting platter, surrounded by rows of vines. Hat Rock Contemporary art gallery is also within the vineyard grounds and worth a visit.

In such beautiful natural surrounds, you want to be dining with a view. At The Heads, a modern Australian restaurant on Barwon Heads pier at the mouth of Barwon River, is one of the

Point Lonsdale. Image © Geelong and the Bellarine

The Whiskery. Image © Chris McConville

most idyllically placed in the area. Perched right over the water, salty coastal breezes sweep through the restaurant as waves crash out on the bluff. The menu changes regularly based on what's in season, but you can always expect fresh local seafood like snapper, oysters and mussels.

Jack Rabbit Vineyard, high on a hilltop on the bayside of the peninsula, has stunning views across the bay to Melbourne, the You Yangs and Geelong. Their restaurant is one of the most awarded in the region, winning Best Menu of Local Produce and Best Customer Service at the Golden Plate Awards 2022. The wines aren't too shabby, either, with a cellar door offering tastings of estate-grown varieties.

Barely 300 metres away, Terindah Estate offers both refined and relaxed dining, using produce from the onsite gardens. There are three options, all with fantastic menus and views of vines, sea, and bushland. If you're just popping in for a drink, its Tram Bar is something different – a refurbished, W-class tram from Melbourne, surrounded by a deck.

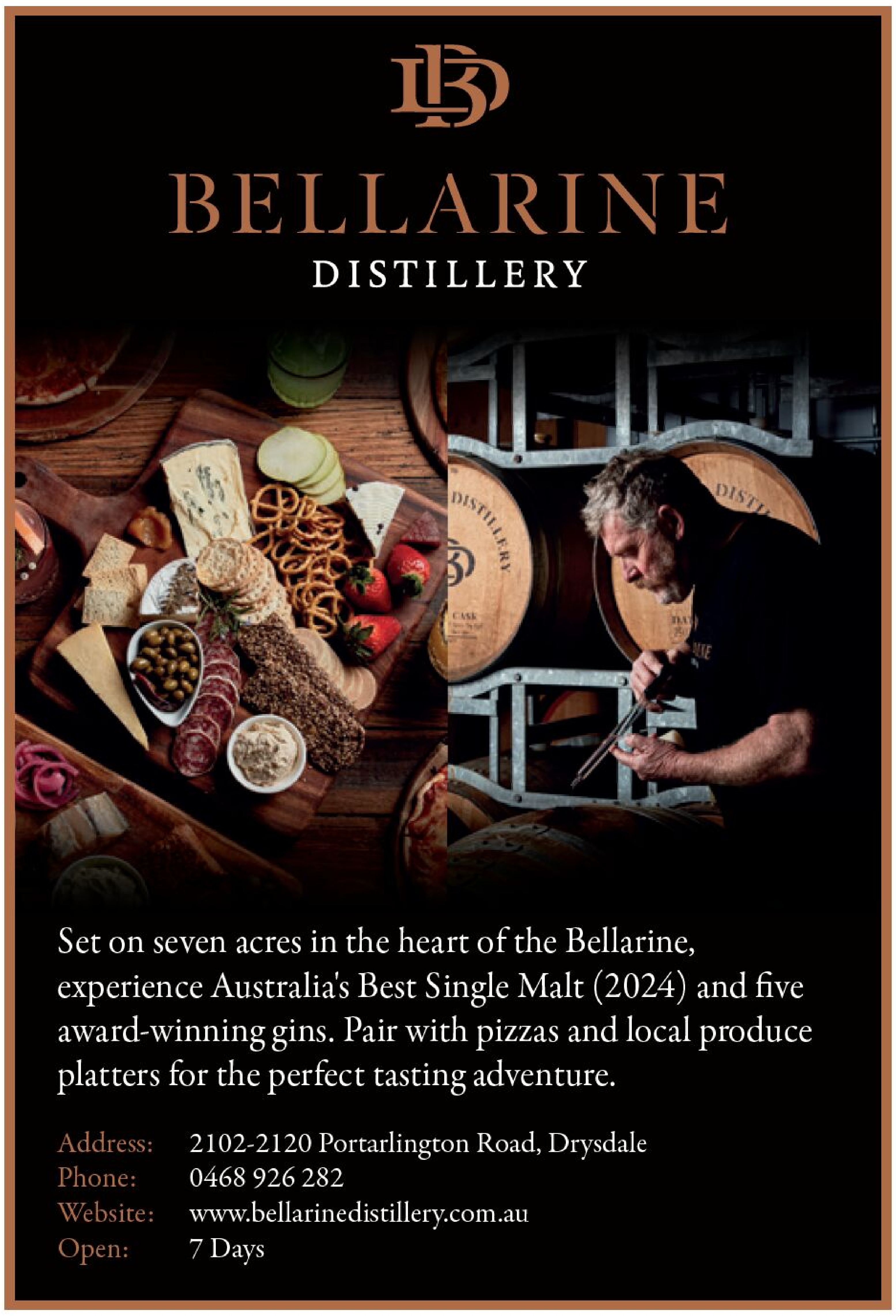
For dinner on the move, The Q Train is a beautifully refurbed old steam carriage that runs from Drysdale Station to Queenscliff and back over three hours, serving a multi-course feast of the best produce from Geelong, Bellarine, and the Otways. Service begins as the train departs, and first courses leave the onboard kitchen as the whistle blows, with the sun setting over Swan Bay. The Q Train proudly only serves local, independent wines, beers and ciders.

If The Q Train feels too starchy and you'd rather get loose in the caboose, The Blues Train in Queenscliff is a mini music festival on rails (warning: other passengers may be running off the rails). Born 30 years ago as a one-off event as part of a winter concert series at the beautiful Suma Park Homestead, it was such a hit that The Blues Train now runs every weekend, hosting acts from Australia and abroad.

Four carriages hold four separate bands, while the train takes the Bellarine Railway at a lazy pace over five hours, stopping intermittently so that you can stretch your legs, take in the view, and switch carriages to catch the next act. Upon arrival at Queenscliff Railway Station, the T-Bar on the platform awaits with a drink, then it's all aboard for dinner before the train departs and the fun starts.

The Bellarine Peninsula is littered with great wineries, but where's a person to go for a drink with some oomph? When the Corio Distillery shut down decades ago, the peninsula sadly had to wait until 2015 for the Bellarine Distillery to set up shop. Occupying a historical site that was once a watering hole for Cobb & Co horses, its Whiskery cellar door serves up a range of award-winning gins and single malt whiskies.

The Whiskery shed has been fully renovated, while maintaining an old-timey rustic vibe. The deck and the lawns out behind the cellar door are a great spot for a highball or a gin and tonic in the summer months, surrounded by bushlands and birdsong. During winter, the best spot in the house is by the crackling fire, where you can plonk on a leather couch and take a whiskey flight or tuck into a gin-tasting paddle. The food is pretty good, too, with cheese and charcuterie boards featuring as much locally sourced produce as possible, and a handful of simple pizzas.



BELLARINE
DISTILLERY

Set on seven acres in the heart of the Bellarine, experience Australia's Best Single Malt (2024) and five award-winning gins. Pair with pizzas and local produce platters for the perfect tasting adventure.

Address: 2102-2120 Portarlington Road, Drysdale
Phone: 0468 926 282
Website: www.bellarinedistillery.com.au
Open: 7 Days

Terindah Estate. Image © Geelong and the Bellarine

For a little exercise amid the peninsula's natural beauty, walk or cycle the Bellarine Rail Trail, which follows the old line for 35 kilometres from South Geelong to Queenscliff. It winds through lush farmland, dense coastal bush and wetlands, taking in some of the region's most untouched landscapes. It's easy going along a relatively flat track, but if you want to make things easier, you can hire an e-bike from Bella E-Bike Hire in Indented Head. It even delivers, for a charge.

Beyond the food and wine, the Bellarine Peninsula is a haven for outdoor adventures. As far as beaches go, the peninsula offers the best of both worlds. On the ocean side are some of Victoria's best surf beaches. Ocean Grove beach has easy access and amenities, but can get crowded in summer.

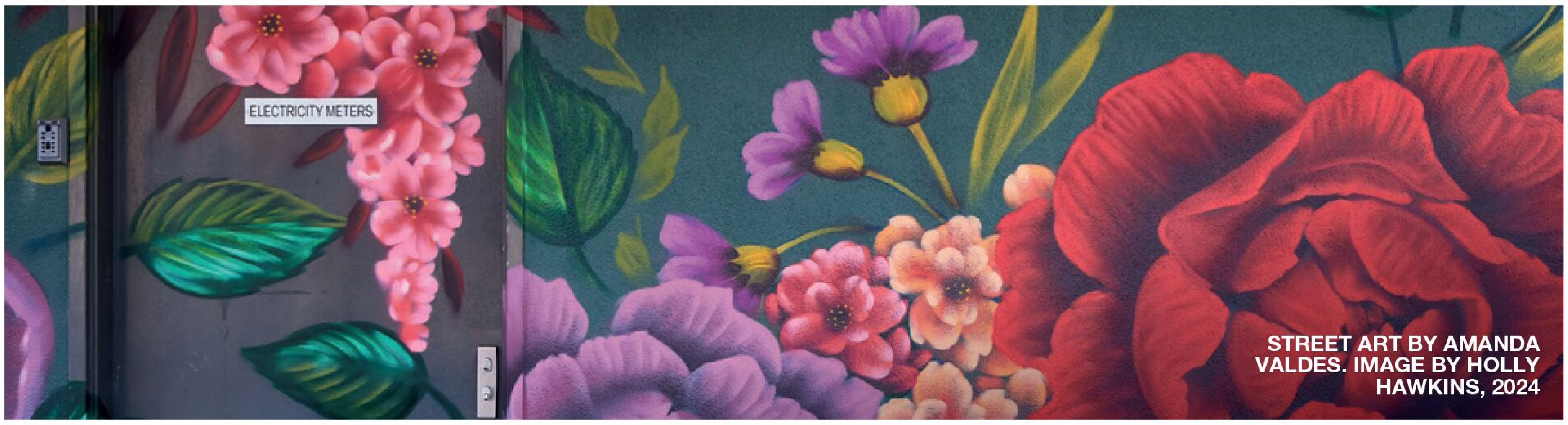
Thirteenth Beach, just around the point across Barwon Heads Bridge, is raw and undeveloped. It's a good six kilometres of roaring breakers and not a house in sight. Several platforms along its length descend over steep, sandy dunes. Inland is Thirteenth Beach Golf Course, one of the most picturesque in Victoria. Thirteenth can get crowded when the surf is thumping, but you can find a quiet nook if you keep heading west away from Barwon Heads.

The banks of Barwon River are a good spot to stick an umbrella in the sand and kick back if waves aren't your scene. It's a nice little estuary within shouting distance of the pub, popular for swimming, kayaking, and windsurfing. On the bay side of the peninsula, the quiet beaches of Portarlington and Indented Head are also perfect for safely dipping a toe in, where private little coves await.

Point Lonsdale is another spot to take in the peninsula's brooding coastal beauty. The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, built in 1902, stands sentry over the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, known as 'The Rip'. This narrow passage is said to be the most treacherous stretch of Australian ocean. Connecting Port Phillip Bay to the Southern Ocean, this is the entrance for shipping into Melbourne.

Rip View Lookout and the surrounding cliffs give great views over the churning waters. Possibly the best view in all the peninsula is from the top of the lighthouse, with huge cargo ships queuing up in the distance, the edge of the world beyond, roaring surf below, and rows and vineyards behind. In the background, tour guides share tales of shipwreck and lost souls, but out here you might just find yourself. ↙

Thirteenth Beach Golf Course, Barwon Heads. Image © Visit Victoria


STREET ART BY AMANDA VALDES. IMAGE BY HOLLY HAWKINS, 2024

See the art in everything in Benalla

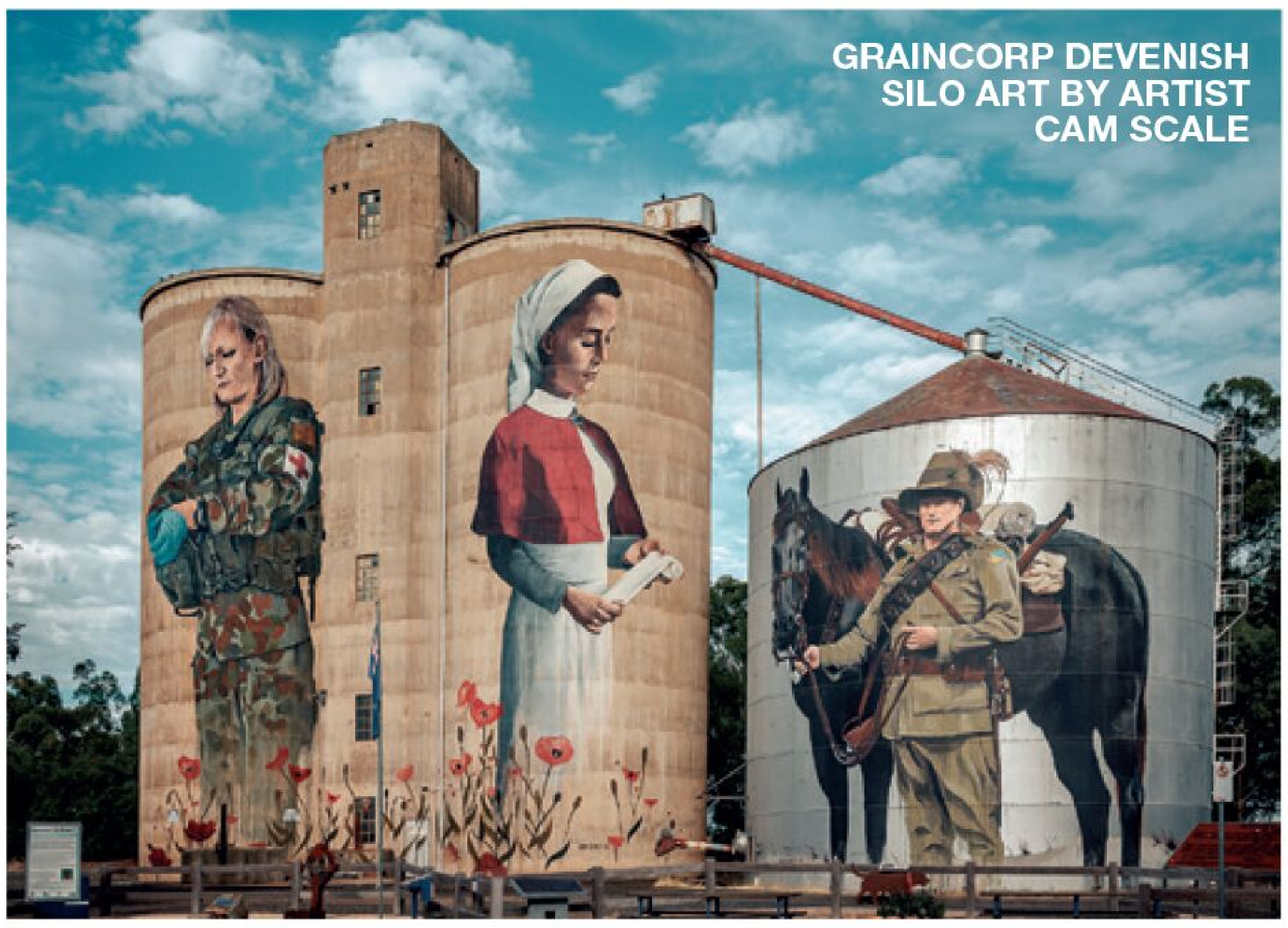
Benalla is the street art capital of regional Victoria, the gateway to the region's acclaimed North East Victoria Silo Art Trail, and home of the renowned Benalla Art Gallery.

The Benalla Art Gallery features a diverse exhibition and event program, and displays works from its incredible collection spanning three centuries of Australian art.

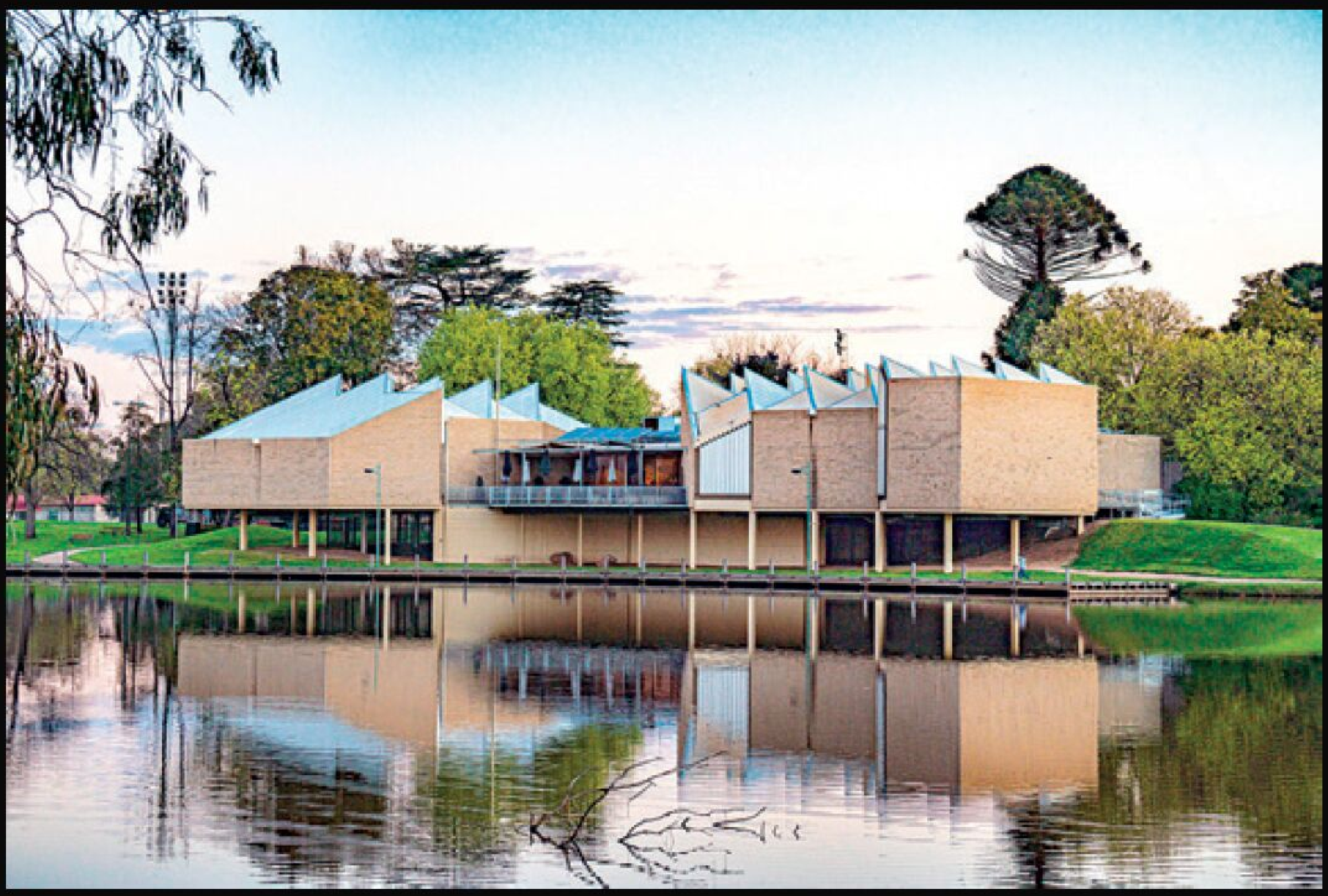
Beyond the gallery's walls, the city's open-air canvas features ever-changing street art, while large-scale murals sit at lofty heights on silos and water towers.

See art in everything on your next visit to Benalla, located two hours north of Melbourne and one hour south of Albury.

To pre-plan your visit, visit enjoybenalla.com.au or phone 03 5762 1749 to request a copy of the official Benalla Visitor Information Guide.


GRAINCORP DEVENISH SILO ART BY ARTIST CAM SCALE

BENALLA ART GALLERY



Situated in the heart of Victoria's bushranger country, the Benalla Art Gallery occupies a striking modernist building by the lake.

The Gallery presents a diverse exhibition program and many engaging events, while its permanent Collection features many notable artists and spans three centuries of Australian art.

The cafe, Munro & Sargeant, overlooks beautiful Lake Benalla and offers relaxed dining featuring local wines and produce. Enjoy lunch or coffee and cake on the lakeside deck in an atmosphere of great art, good food and memorable views.

A trip to the Benalla Art Gallery can be complemented with a walk through the heritage-listed Benalla Botanical Gardens.

Pre-plan your visit: www.benallaartgallery.com.au

IMAGE
Benalla Art Gallery, 2022.
Photo: Serana Hunt-Hughes

VISIT
Botanical Gardens
Bridge Street
Benalla VIC 3672

FREE ENTRY
Mar—Aug, 10AM—4.30PM
Sep—Feb, 10AM—5PM
Closed Tuesdays

CONTACT
T 03 5760 2619
E gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au
W benallaartgallery.com.au

CREATIVE VICTORIA

BENALLA ART GALLERY

BENALLA RURAL CITY

Seventy-two hours in Latrobe City: explore, experience and enjoy

It's the contrasting experiences that make Latrobe City so unique. From peaceful retreats in stunning natural landscapes, to the lively atmosphere of its charming towns and bustling regional cities, you can choose to travel at your own pace. Whether you're seeking adventure or relaxation, Latrobe City will transform you.

Why not stop by and spend 72 hours exploring the region's unique heritage, culture and creative community?

Discover the charm of Traralgon

Start your day with a leisurely breakfast at one of Traralgon's bustling cafes, like Food Co. On Franklin or Frankies, where you'll enjoy freshly brewed coffee and local produce. Once fuelled up, take a stroll through Victory Park, or let the kids burn off energy at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre splash zone and water slides.

For lunch, stop by Neilsons Kitchen, a local favourite offering modern Australian dishes with a Gippsland twist. Afterwards, grab an ice cream from Augustus Gelatery and explore Traralgon's range of retail stores.

End the day with a craft beer at Good Land Brewing Co, or enjoy Italian cuisine at Stellina – housed in a charming heritage building established in 1875, and serving up modern Italian–Australian dishes and woodfired pizzas.

Embrace nature and adventure in Moe and Yallourn

Start with breakfast in Moe, then visit the Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve for peaceful walking trails amid native bushland. Next, step back in time at Old Gippstown Heritage Park, which is a re-created 1850s township.

For lunch, stop in at Twenty 20 Tapas before heading to Yallourn North for a scenic drive. History enthusiasts will enjoy the Yallourn North Historic Walk, which provides insights into the town's coalmining past. For adventure-seekers, head to Haunted Hills Mountain Bike Park or launch your boat at Lake Narracan for powerboating, waterskiing, and sailing.

Explore Morwell's art and green spaces

On your final day, enjoy breakfast at The Daily Cafe & Foodstore in Morwell, then explore the renowned Morwell Centenary Rose Garden, home to thousands of curated roses. For lunch, visit the Gippsland Immigration Park, grab a picnic from Cafe Qu Bah, and take in the stunning views over Kernot Lake.

Finish your trip by immersing yourself in the arts at Latrobe Regional Gallery, featuring contemporary and traditional exhibitions. Cap off your visit with a wine-tasting at Narkoojee Winery, just a short drive away. An added bonus: stay close to the best of Gippsland with Walhalla, Tarra-Bulga National Park, Ninety Mile Beach and other key attractions just down the road.

Latrobe City is Calling.

Your next big adventure is in Latrobe City.

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VISIT LATROBE CITY

The Horsham Grampians North West region: so much more than expected

Horsham

Known as the cosmopolitan capital of the Wimmera region, Horsham is a bustling commercial centre located on the banks of the beautiful Wimmera River, which features several amazing walking tracks.

Take a break during your travels and treat yourself to an overnight stay in Horsham, which also offers a variety of cafes and restaurants. You will be astounded by what you will discover within the Horsham CBD and riverfront precinct. There is so much to see and do in Horsham, with a strong focus on public art.

Be sure to visit the local wineries – you will not be disappointed. There are two located 15 minutes from Horsham, and one in the North West Grampians region. Alternatively, simply come and play at the Horsham Golf Club, which is ranked in the top public access courses in Australia. Boasting manicured fairways, the Horsham Golf Club is a golfing experience that should be on every golfer's bucket list. If fishing is more your style, then anglers are well-catered for with a large variety of fishing opportunities all year round. Many different species are abundant in the region's beautiful waterways.

Wartook Valley

Located on the 'sunset side' of the Grampians and only a 30-minute drive from Horsham, Wartook Valley is home to spectacular sunsets, brilliant night skies, rugged mountain views, scenic walks, and abundant wildlife. The area also features Aboriginal rock art sites at the Gulgurn Manja and Ngamadjidj shelters near Mount Stapylton and Hollow Mountain.

If wildlife is what you're looking for, then Wartook Valley is for you. It is home to an abundance of kangaroos and emus, as well as many other native flora and fauna – especially during spring.

Mount Zero is a picturesque peak perfect for hikers and daytrippers, home to the oldest olive groves in Australia, and famed for its organic olive plantations. Alternatively, walk the Zumsteins Track to the beautiful MacKenzie Falls. The region is picturesque and will no doubt please you!

Dadswells Bridge

Located along the Western Highway with the majestic Grampians in the backdrop, Dadswells Bridge is known as the home of the Giant Koala. It's the perfect location to base yourself for activities in the Northern Grampians.

Natimuk

Situated west of Horsham, Natimuk has several historical buildings that line the main street – a legacy of the town's prosperous past. Explore the town's heritage trail or visit The Goat Gallery, which features exhibitions from local and regional artists.

One of Natimuk's primary attractions is Mount Arapiles, located approximately 10 kilometres west of the town. Rising from the Wimmera Plains, Mount Arapiles, or 'Dyurrite', is part of the Mount Arapiles–Tooan State Park. Access the summit via road and enjoy a picnic with sweeping views over the wheat plains from the top of Mount Arapiles. The area features a wide diversity of Australian native plants and animals.

For more information on what to discover in Horsham, visit www.visithorsham.com.au.

Explore Discover Uncover
Big Sky Country

Horsham Grampians North West Region

Open every day of the year, except Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day, from 10am to 4pm. Our friendly staff are here to help you with all your visitor and tourism enquiries. We stock a range of regional brochures, guides and maps as well as local artists' works and produce, gift packs and hampers.

Central location within the CBD, near a number of long bay parking options, cafes and restaurants.

Located at Horsham Town Hall,
71 Pynsent Street and
80 Wilson Street.

Phone: 03 5382 9502
Free call: 1800 633 128
Email: tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au

HORSHAM
Rural City Council

WWW.VISITHORSHAM.COM.AU

Wineglass Bay. Image © Matthew Donovan

Four days exploring
Freycinet National Park

BY KATE HUTCHESON

Pack your walking shoes and prepare for a Tasmanian adventure you'll never forget.

If visiting Tasmania is on your bucket list, then you're sure to be familiar with Freycinet National Park and its natural wonders. Known for its stunning views, unbeatable walking tracks and incredible nature, a few days in Freycinet National Park is sure to have you feeling more connected to nature than ever.

DAY ONE: SETTLING IN AND WINEGLASS BAY

Freycinet National Park is located on the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast, under three hours from both Hobart and Launceston. The park's proximity to Tasmania's cities, as well as its famous natural beauty make it popular among visitors to the Island State.

The closest township to the national park is Coles Bay, which sits just outside the border of the park. If you prefer to maintain your creature comforts while out on the road, there are plenty of accommodation options in Coles Bay, including a BIG4 Holiday Park, where you can create a base for your exploration of the peninsula. If you're looking for an immersive experience, then camping within the national park itself is your best bet.

There are multiple camping grounds within Freycinet National Park, both free and paid. If you're looking for a free camping site, then a good option is Friendly Beaches Campground. This camping ground is located around 20 minutes from Coles Bay, requires a Tasmanian Parks Pass, and is suitable for tents, campervans and caravans. The campsite has toilets but no other facilities or power, so you'll need to come prepared.

Another option is River and Rocks Campground, which is only 10 minutes out of Coles Bay. Again, this campsite only has toilets (no showers or power), but it is suitable for tents and small caravans, and it is free to access. If you're looking for a camping ground with a few more creature comforts, then we'd recommend the Freycinet National Park Campground. This camping ground encompasses Honeymoon Bay, Richardsons Beach and Ranger Creek camping grounds.

Once you're settled in at your accommodation of choice, pop on your walking shoes, pack the camera and drive yourself to the Wineglass Bay car park. Here, you can set off on the Wineglass Bay Lookout walk – the most popular activity within the national park, and for good reason! The looped walk is approximately three kilometres long, and will take between one and two hours to complete, depending on how long you spend admiring the views out to the natural formation of Wineglass Bay. You can also opt to walk down 1000 steps to stand on the sandy beaches of the bay and see this iconic landmark from another angle. You can even have a dip in the perfect blue water before tackling the 1000-step hike back up to the loop!

Friendly Beaches, Freycinet National Park. Image © Stu Gibson

Honeymoon Bay. Image © Harrison Candlin – Vagary Studio

CAMPING IN SUMMER

Due to the popularity of camping in Freycinet National Park, a ballot system is in place during peak season (December to February) to secure a campsite within Freycinet National Park Campground. This ensures that the national park maintains its natural beauty by avoiding overcrowding of campsites and facilities. Applications for the ballot close at the end of July and are drawn in August, so planning ahead is essential for a camping trip in the national park.

If you are unsuccessful in the ballot, or have missed the application date, then an adventure in Freycinet National Park is still within grasp. There are free camping options within the national park (no facilities), as well as various accommodation options in nearby towns, including Coles Bay, which allow access to the national park by car.

For more information, and to apply to the ballot, visit www.parks.tas.gov.au.

Freycinet Adventures.
Image © Tourism Tasmania;
Kathryn Leahy

DAY TWO: TAKE TO THE WATER

Day two of your Freycinet National Park adventure is all about, well, adventure! Take to the water with the award-winning The Freycinet Paddle kayak tour with Freycinet Adventures. From the water, you'll be able to see incredible views of The Hazards mountain range, and will gain a unique perspective of the Freycinet Peninsula that you can't get from land.

On this three-hour tour, you'll paddle alongside the idyllic beaches and bays of Freycinet National Park, and will uncover secluded areas that you would otherwise never have known existed. While you're out on the water, you may even get to see some of the marine wildlife of the area up close, including playful dolphins and graceful stingrays.

Day two is also a fantastic time to visit Cape Tourville Lighthouse. The lighthouse is accessible via a constructed walkway that is suitable for all levels. This easy walk, which loops around the lighthouse itself, offers views of The Hazards, Wineglass Bay and the offshore rocks known as The Nuggets.

DAY THREE: A ROCKY SUMMIT AND A FRIENDLY DIP

Now that you've had a day to (mostly) rest your legs, let's get them burning again. Today is the day that you undertake the popular Mount Amos summit hike. This four-kilometre return hike also begins at the Wineglass Bay car park, but heads in a different direction than the previous walk. This walk is a little more advanced, and good-quality hiking shoes are recommended as areas of this hike become quite rocky and slippery – but the views from atop the peak are more than worth it! Be sure to take a few moments to soak in the tranquillity as you gaze out onto the sparkly blue waters of the bay and follow the jagged coastline all the way to the horizon.

After the climb (or scramble) to the summit of Mount Amos, you'll have earned a rest. We suggest heading to Friendly Beaches. You can access the beach from a car park located at the end of Friendly Beaches Road, and then it's just a short walk down to the beach itself. Here, you can find yourself a nice spot on the sand and admire the sprawling coastline stretching out on either side of you.

DAY FOUR: A WELL-DESERVED LUXURY

On day four of your time in Freycinet National Park, it's time to pack up the tent or the van and begin to make your way back to reality, where jaw-dropping views aren't around every corner. In order to ease the transition back to normality, we recommend a visit to the Freycinet Marine Farm sales room. Here, you can purchase some of the freshest seafood you'll ever eat, including oysters and scallops, and can either enjoy it picnic style in the garden or find a nice spot along the beach for lunch with a view.

Make some time to pop by nearby Devil's Corner Cellar Door, where you can enjoy a tipple alongside some local produce and chef-prepared food. You've earned it, after all! ↙

Freycinet Marine Farm. Image © Stu Gibson

Freycinet Adventures. Image © Tourism Tasmania; Kathryn Leahy

Cruise along the wild West Coast

Cruise on the red boat *Harbour Master II*, into the last, truly unique Wilderness World Heritage Area on the West Coast of Tasmania. Join World Heritage Cruise's family-owned and -operated daily cruise, as the team navigates through spectacular wilderness, including Macquarie Harbour, Hells Gates, Cape Sorell Lighthouse, Sarah Island, and the tranquil Gordon River. Hear tales passed down by five generations of the Grining family, who have lived and worked in this remote, wild landscape for over 125 years. This place is in their blood.

Harbour Master II is a Tasmanian-manufactured masterpiece designed with the West Coast elements in mind, and, of course, the absolute comfort and convenience of guests. The boat features huge panoramic windows and large spacious outdoor decks, two of which are undercover. There are two decks of seating with bathrooms and kiosks on both levels.

The tour includes local storytelling commentary of the area and places of interest throughout the cruise, two onshore entertaining walks with professional guides at Sarah Island and Heritage Landing, and a delicious lunch featuring fresh Tasmanian produce prepared onboard. To conclude, you will tour a traditional sawmill at the end of the cruise (please note that this excludes the afternoon cruise).

For more information, call 03 6471 7174, email bookings@worldheritagecruises.com.au or visit www.worldheritagecruises.com.au.

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THE RED BOAT

Financing your trip

BY EDEN COX

With so much to see and do across our beautiful country, the prospect of financing your great Australian caravanning adventure can be daunting. This edition, we take a look at budgets, cost-saving ideas and financing to help you hit the road sooner.

There's no doubt that the rewards of an epic caravan adventure will outweigh the costs, but financing your trip may require careful planning and budgeting. With the right approach, you can experience the beauty and diversity of Australia while staying within your financial means.

SETTING A BUDGET

As with any trip, understanding the likely costs ahead of departure allows you to plan ahead and save so you can make the most of your time away. Even though you'll be taking your home on wheels with you, and therefore aren't likely to incur any exorbitant accommodation costs, there are a number of expenses that you'll need to factor into your caravanning budget.

Fuel

Fuel is often the biggest cost of a caravanning journey. Towing a caravan burns more fuel than your car alone, so you will need to budget for this when considering transport costs. Depending on a range of factors (such as travelling speed, type of vehicle, weight of caravan, aerodynamics, etc.), fuel consumption is usually between 10 and 20 litres per 100 kilometres travelled. With fluctuations in fuel pricing, it can be tricky to get an accurate estimation of this cost, but average price per litre in the cities is currently around $1.80–$1.95. Bear in mind that fuel is often more expensive – around $3 per litre – in regional and rural areas.

Accommodation

While your caravan provides your accommodation needs, campsite costs can vary widely, from free camping to between $20 and $50 per night (or even more during peak times!). This means that your total campsite fees can add up to more than $700 in just two weeks on the road! It's a good idea to plan ahead, and even book campsites in advance, so you have an idea of these costs before you set out.

Food and supplies

Food and supplies are your next financial consideration – and this should include a budget for groceries, as well as for dining out. It's important to also remember that groceries cost up to 39 per cent more in remote communities. Small towns have fewer supermarkets, meaning less competition and inflated pricing. Additionally, high transport costs can also jack up prices in stores, and result in limited choices for essentials. For these reasons, if you live in a major city, it can save you money to stock up on the essentials before you leave. The above factors can also increase the cost of dining out, which should be considered when budgeting.

Attractions

With the basics considered, it's now time to factor in the cost of activities and entertainment on your trip. There's no point driving all the way across the country only to find that you haven't budgeted for the attractions on offer! Check out the attractions and activities you're interested in in each of the places on your itinerary, and visit their websites for an idea of entry fees.

Include costs for tours, attractions and recreational activities, which can range from free hikes to more expensive guided tours. Many national parks also charge entry fees, ranging from $5 to into the hundreds – which can be a shock discovery upon arriving at the entrance gates.

Ensure you allocate enough funds to truly make the most out of each location, too. For example, some of the most memorable experiences in a region can only be accessed on a paid guided tour. While the tour might take a chunk out of your budget, it could be well worth it for the experience on offer.

FINANCING YOUR TRIP

Where you source the funds to cover the cost of your caravan trip is, of course, a very personal decision – from savings, to retirement funds and more.

Savings

The most straightforward option is to use personal savings to pay for your caravanning adventure. Creating a dedicated savings plan before your trip can help you accumulate the necessary funds, while cutting back on non-essential expenses will quickly boost your holiday fund. Sometimes setting up a savings jar into which any surplus cash is deposited is a great way to stay focused and motivated on your holiday savings goals.

Caravan hire and financial loans

If you don't already own a caravan, there are plenty of avenues through which you can hire a caravan for your

trip. A quick online search reveals a host of private caravan and motorhome hire companies with a large range of different options available. Look for rental companies that offer discounts for longer trips. Some also provide packages that include additional amenities, which can save money on equipment rentals. There is also the Camplify platform, which operates much like the Airbnb platform, but for campervans, motorhomes and caravans.

If purchasing a caravan is on the cards, you might consider a cheaper second-hand option or a loan. Many banks and financial institutions offer specific loans for caravan purchases. Look for loans with favourable interest rates and terms that fit your budget, and be sure to compare options from various lenders to find the best deal.

Crowdfunding or sponsorships

For adventurous spirits, consider crowdfunding your trip. Share your plans on social media and platforms like GoFundMe or Kickstarter. You may also find local businesses willing to sponsor your journey in exchange for advertising or social media promotion. You can also request donations into your crowdfunding account in lieu of birthday gifts and Christmas presents, which can help to quickly boost your adventure savings.

Credit cards

One option to finance your trip is using a credit card. It is possible to use credit cards sensibly to finance your caravanning journey while also keeping your finances in check. Credit cards can also be handy in the event of an emergency or unforeseen costs that you haven't budgeted for. Before diving into credit card options, it's essential to outline the expected costs of your caravanning adventure and your budget.

Look for a card that offers rewards points that allow you to earn points for travel, fuel, and dining expenses, which can help to offset future costs. Credit cards often come with insurance for travel-related purchases, providing peace of mind in case of cancellations or issues. Some credit cards also allow you to spread payments over time, which can help manage your cash flow during your trip.

When choosing a credit card for your adventure, consider looking for one with low interest rates, sign-up bonuses or higher rewards for travel-related expenses, which can be particularly beneficial. Keep track of your credit card spending while on the road and check if your bank offers an app that allows you to categorise expenses, making it easier to monitor your budget in real time.

To avoid high-interest charges, make a habit of paying off your credit card balance regularly. If possible, pay off the full amount each month to maintain a good credit score and avoid debt accumulation.

Financing a caravanning adventure may require careful planning and budgeting, but with the right approach, you can experience the beauty and diversity of Australia while staying within your financial means. Start planning today and get ready for an unforgettable journey! ↙

HOT TIP

When preparing a budget, remember to factor in the higher prices often seen in remote and rural areas for things like fuel, dining out and groceries.

Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravans are revolutionising the future of RV living

In recent years, the caravan industry has witnessed a steady transformation in both design and technology, but nothing has captured the imagination of RV enthusiasts quite like the Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravans. These innovative caravans are not just a fleeting trend; they are a beacon of progress, offering solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing the modern traveller – water ingress, dust ingress and comfort. With a focus on energy independence, cutting-edge construction and sleek aesthetics, Harvok has created a caravan that redefines what it means to explore the open road.

The rise of energy-efficient caravans

One of the stand-out features of the Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravan is its 48-volt electrical system. In a world where environmental concerns and energy efficiency are more important than ever, this innovation is a game changer. Traditional RVs often rely on 12-volt or 24-volt systems, which can limit their energy storage and power output. By adopting a 48-volt system, Harvok caravans can handle higher loads and more efficiently manage energy, especially when coupled with solar panels, lithium batteries, and inverters.

For the modern camper, this means longer stays off the grid without sacrificing the comfort of modern amenities. Lights, refrigerators, air-conditioning units and entertainment systems can all be powered for extended periods. Plus, the reduced energy consumption associated with 48-volt systems helps prolong battery life and improve the overall sustainability of the caravan.

This energy independence is particularly important as more travellers seek to embrace ‘free camping’, where access to traditional caravan parks is limited. Harvok’s 48-volt technology not only supports this adventurous lifestyle, but also enhances it by offering freedom without sacrificing convenience.

Monocoque construction: a strong, lightweight marvel

The monocoque design is another defining characteristic of Harvok caravans. Monocoque construction, which means ‘single shell’ in French, is a method borrowed from the aerospace and automotive industries. Rather than relying on a separate frame and body structure, a monocoque caravan uses its outer shell to bear the load, resulting in a stronger yet lighter construction.

For the avid RVer, this construction method brings several benefits. First, monocoque caravans are lighter, making them easier to tow – reducing fuel consumption for the towing vehicle. The reduced weight also makes Harvok caravans accessible to a wider range of vehicles, meaning you don’t need a heavy-duty truck to tow them, broadening their appeal to more casual campers or those with smaller tow vehicles.

Moreover, the single-shell design makes Harvok caravans more durable and resistant to the wear and tear of the road. The seamless body is less prone to leaks and structural damage, ensuring that your investment lasts longer. And since the monocoque structure integrates the floor, walls, and roof

HARVOK
HARVOK
DREAM
CRUISE
GOODRIDE

into one solid unit, you get a more spacious and open interior without the need for bulky framing.

Streamlined, modern aesthetics

Harvok's design philosophy doesn't stop at functionality; it also incorporates a distinct sense of style. The sleek, aerodynamic lines of the Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravans offer a modern take on the traditional caravan. Gone are the days of boxy, utilitarian trailers. Harvok has replaced them with a streamlined profile that not only looks good, but also improves fuel efficiency while towing. The low-drag coefficient, combined with the lightweight monocoque design, means you're saving on fuel while turning heads at the campsite.

The clean, minimalist aesthetic carries through to the interior, as well. Harvok caravans are thoughtfully designed with ample natural light, high-end materials, and smart layouts that make even the smallest spaces feel luxurious. Storage is plentiful, and every inch of the caravan is optimised for both functionality and comfort.

Sustainability at the core

The Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravan is not just an innovation in energy efficiency and design; it is also a nod toward sustainability. By utilising advanced materials and manufacturing techniques, Harvok has created a product that is more environmentally friendly. The lightweight construction reduces the energy required to tow the caravan, while the integrated 48-volt electrical system ensures that the RV can rely more on renewable energy sources like solar power – reducing its carbon footprint.

Additionally, the durability of the monocoque design means fewer repairs and less maintenance over the lifetime of the caravan, which also contributes to its sustainability. A longer-lasting product means fewer resources are required for replacements and repairs, ultimately leading to a more environmentally conscious way of enjoying the RV lifestyle.

The future of RVing

As the RV market continues to evolve, the Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravan stands out as a shining example of what the future of recreational vehicles can be. With its blend of energy efficiency, modern construction techniques, and stylish design, it represents the perfect solution for the eco-conscious traveller who doesn't want to compromise on comfort or aesthetics.

For those who love the freedom of the open road, but are concerned about their environmental impact, Harvok offers a compelling alternative. Whether you're a weekend warrior looking to escape the city or a full-time nomad chasing adventure, the Harvok 48-volt monocoque caravan promises to enhance your journey in ways you never thought possible. This is more than just a caravan – it's the future of RV living, and it's here now.

Explore more with Explorer Motorhomes

Explorer Motorhomes is Australia's leading motorhome manufacturer, recognised for its quality and cutting-edge technology. With groundbreaking designs, Explorer Motorhomes has solidified its reputation as a true industry innovator. At the heart of Explorer's craftsmanship is its one-piece fibreglass body, a seamless and incredibly strong construction that ensures durability and longevity. This unique design eliminates the risk of leaks while providing unmatched strength, allowing these motorhomes to comfortably travel Australia's toughest terrains.

In every build, Explorer Motorhomes maintains a no-compromise approach to quality. Only the finest components are used and Explorer Motorhomes sources materials from Australian suppliers wherever possible. This dedication to local craftsmanship has helped Explorer Motorhomes earn the Australian Made logo, showcasing the company's commitment to supporting local businesses while delivering a top-tier product.

New to the Explorer Motorhomes line-up is the NOMAD model, setting a new standard for luxury and capability. With a 4250-kilogram gross vehicle mass, NOMAD offers more standard extras than any other model on the market. Its thoughtfully designed interior strikes the perfect balance between form and function, offering one of the most comfortable living spaces available. The kitchen impresses with 2.5 metres of bench space, an induction cooktop, and wraparound storage – ideal for travellers who want all the comforts of home on the road.

Explorer Motorhomes also prides itself on offering exceptional after-sales service and care. From sleeping arrangements to kitchen layouts, every motorhome can be customised to suit the unique preferences of the owner. Whether you're seeking panoramic windows or specific storage solutions, Explorer has the ideal motorhome for you.

The company's four-wheel drive capabilities really set it apart, allowing travellers to reach remote, rugged destinations that would be inaccessible to traditional motorhomes. Setting the bar incredibly high, Explorer Motorhomes is undisputedly Australia's industry leader.

explorer
4WD motorhomes
STEDI
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NOMAD

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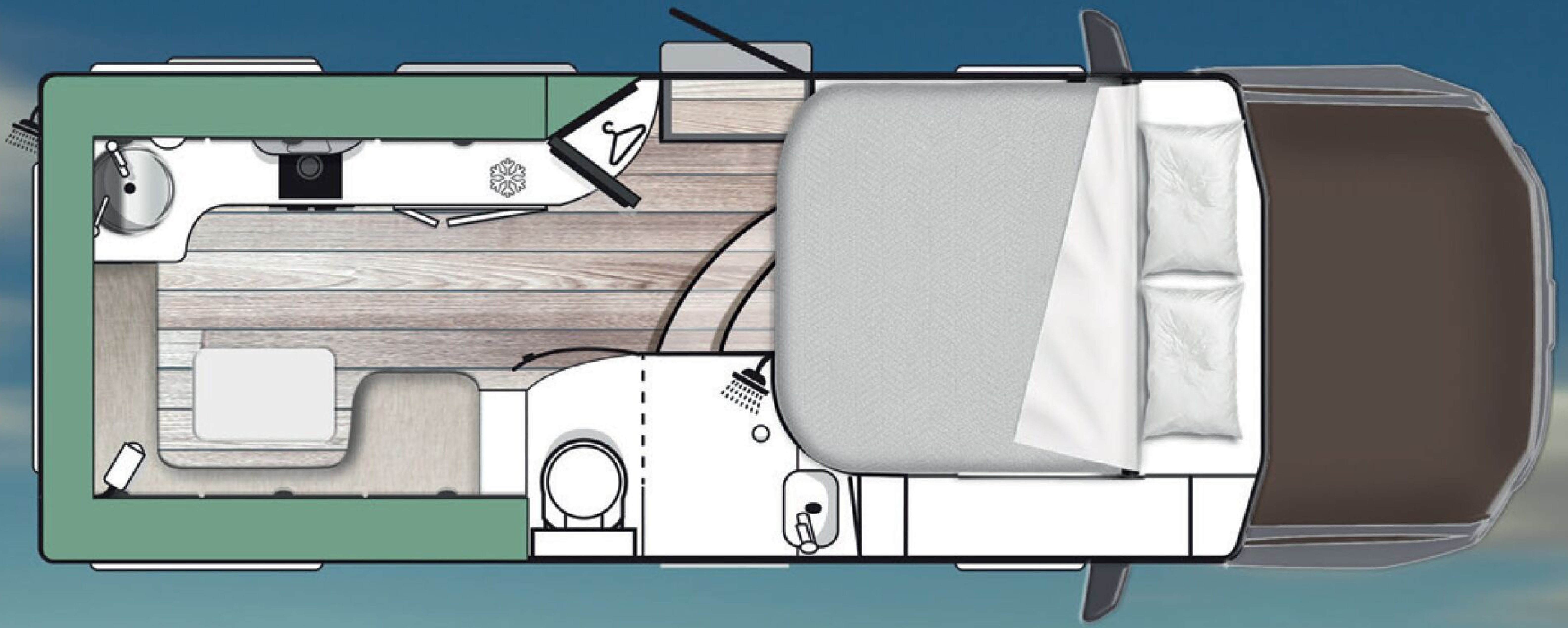
Purpose built to maximise storage for longer trips and rated a whopping 4250kg GVM, Nomad can carry half a tonne more than any motorhome in it's class



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Revolutionising caravan comfort: the Dreamer RV story

Caravanning enthusiasts across Australia are celebrating a breakthrough in sleep comfort thanks to Dreamer RV – a family-owned business that has redefined the caravan sleeping experience. Dreamer RV has taken on one of the most persistent issues for caravanners – the uncomfortable, standard caravan mattress – and transformed it with an innovative solution designed specifically for life on the road.

At the heart of Dreamer RV's offerings is its Wanderluxe Caravan Mattress Topper, a product born out of personal frustration and a desire for better sleep. Unlike traditional mattress toppers that are ill-fitting or uncomfortable for caravan beds, Dreamer RV's memory foam topper is meticulously crafted to cater to the unique needs of caravanners. The topper features premium gel-infused memory foam for optimal temperature regulation, an anti-slip base with a strapping system for stability, rounded corners for a better fit, and a washable cover – all while being lightweight to avoid adding excessive payload to the caravan. For those who have long been dissatisfied with stock mattresses but are unwilling to invest thousands in a full replacement, Dreamer RV offers an affordable and practical alternative.

The company's slogan, 'Wake up ready for adventure', encapsulates its mission perfectly. Founders Jim and Tara are passionate about caravanning, having spent over five years travelling Australia with their three young sons. Their journey began in 2016 when they decided to take a year off to explore the country with their two boys, Bodhi and Hendrix. What started as a temporary escape became a way of life, as the couple fell in love with the freedom and adventure that caravanning offered. After the birth of their third son, Cohen, the family hit the road again, embarking on a two-year adventure in Western Australia.

It was during their travels that Jim and Tara encountered one of the most common complaints in the caravanning community: uncomfortable mattresses. After trying multiple solutions, they decided to create their own. Thus, the Wanderluxe Caravan Mattress Topper was born – a solution that has since helped thousands of caravanners enjoy a good night's sleep.

Since launching in 2022, Dreamer RV has grown significantly, offering a wide range of topper sizes to fit various caravan and camper beds. But for Jim and Tara, Dreamer RV is about more than just selling products; it's about community. As they hit the road again, they look forward to meeting fellow travellers and continuing to make a difference in the lives of those who love the caravanning lifestyle.

With Dreamer RV, it's not just about the journey – it's about waking up each day, refreshed and ready for the next adventure. Safe travels, and remember: a comfortable night's sleep is just a topper away.

Upgrade your caravan sleep with the Wanderluxe™ Caravan Mattress Topper!

Featuring gel-infused memory foam for temperature regulation, an anti-slip base with a secure strapping system, rounded corners for a perfect fit, and a washable cover, it's lightweight and hassle-free.

Enjoy the comfort of home on the road with a topper designed specifically for caravanners.

wanderluxe
BY DREAMER RV

dreamer rv
WAKE UP READY FOR ADVENTURE

W: dreamerrv.com.au
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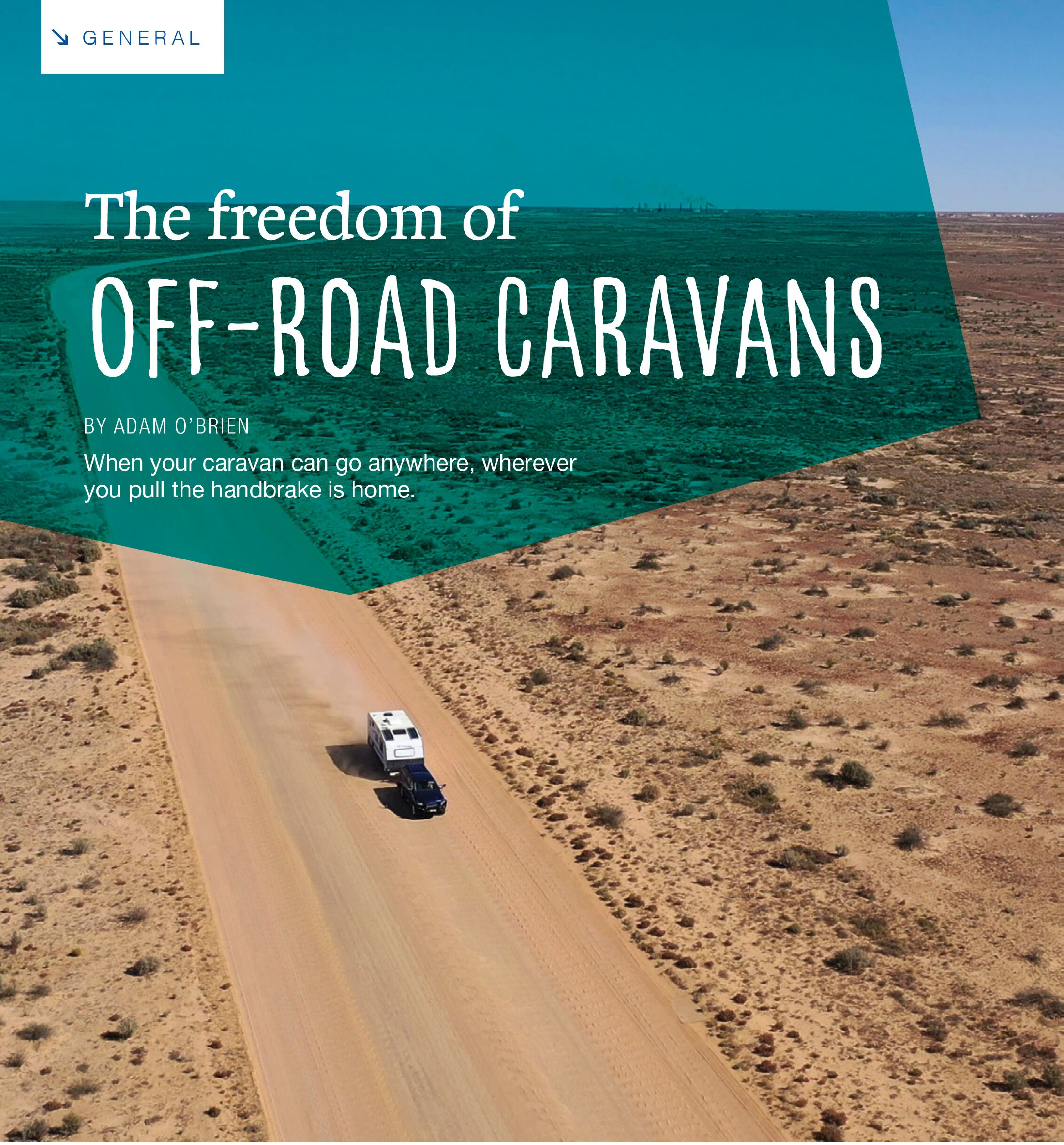

The freedom of OFF-ROAD CARAVANS

BY ADAM O'BRIEN

When your caravan can go anywhere, wherever you pull the handbrake is home.

Some caravan owners are happy to scoot between resort-town holiday parks, sticking mostly to highways, which is fine; but some prefer to veer off the well-worn trail and tackle terrain that the average caravan isn't equipped to handle. While there are many benefits to an off-road caravan, there is one main one: freedom. With an off-road caravan, whatever far-flung fishing spot, secluded beach or mountain trail your heart desires is within reach.

An off-road caravan or camper can be towed over just about any terrain a four-wheel drive can traverse (there are, of course, some exceptions). This also affords flexibility in peak seasons when caravan sites are in limited supply – your itinerary doesn't have to be dictated by availability, allowing you to follow any whim into any remote location.

Off-road campers and caravans come in various shapes, sizes and specifications, but are largely similar to standard on-road caravans, with some design modifications to allow handling the stresses of rugged, unsealed roads. The chassis sits atop off-road suspension and tyres, and is stronger and generally more substantial, sitting much higher off the ground. This is coupled with a greater departure angle in the rear, allowing better clearance, and helps to avoid bottoming-out in deep ruts and sudden inclines.

Most on-road caravans sit hulking over small wheels on a straight axel with leaf-spring suspension, which is fine for paved roads, but things get precarious when tackling dirt tracks infested with potholes and corrugations. Independent, load-sharing suspension is considered the premium option for an off-roader. Independent means that the left and right wheels are not joined to a single axel and suspension works independently, and load-sharing means that the front and back wheels on one side of the caravan work together to distribute impact between the two.

The way off-road suspension distributes the weight more evenly than a single-axel and/or leaf-spring example also means that the caravan is less likely to fishtail behind the tow vehicle, and is less likely to incur punctures as less weight is concentrated over each wheel. The caravan is also less likely to get bogged for the same reason. In ideal situations, the wheel size and stud pattern matches that of the tow vehicle, meaning all wheels are interchangeable if the need arises. You can also get caravans with app-adjustable, independent airbag suspension, allowing you to adjust to different height settings for different terrains. But this is probably overkill.

Most off-road cabins are heavily sealed and waterproofed along the whole underside, as well as at doors, windows and hatches to stop water seeping in during water crossings. This also stops dust getting into the interior.

Interiors are much the same with some subtle changes added to well-crafted examples. These may include securing items with nylon nuts to withstand vibration, and heavier-duty locks, latches and drawer rollers. Some models even use denser-grade timbers and polyester coatings to withstand vigorous scrubbing. Appliances are geared towards efficiency in expectation that an off-road RV will rely more heavily on battery power or solar panels.

The hitching system utilised on most examples permits more acute angles to be reached between van and tow vehicle than traditional vans, allowing a sharper turning circle. A standard caravan hitch cannot withstand much articulation without encountering trouble (around 20 degrees), while an off-road hitch is a much more robust design, with some able to achieve a full 360 degrees of articulation (not that it's possible to utilise that much) and will withstand a much heavier load.

The freedom to tow through rough terrain isn't the only liberty afforded by an off-road caravan – designers are aware that they are generally taken off the beaten path and away from typical facilities, so added equipment reflects this, which can include:

- larger freshwater and wastewater tanks
- more powerful battery systems or solar power units with lithium batteries
- more energy-efficient amenities
- longer-range communication systems
- more storage capacity
- bigger gas bottles
- heavier-duty recovery gear
- tandem axels
- increased frame strength.

The overall resilience of the exterior is also usually fortified with checker plating and stone guards.

Electrical capacity is also a key factor. Not many caravans come without a built-in battery and roof-mounted solar panels these days, which will generally be enough to keep the lights on and appliances humming for a few days when unplugged. If your requirements go beyond that, investigate getting a more advanced solar set-up with better panels and inverters so that you can charge the battery faster, and add more battery storage as needs increase. Lithium or lithium iron phosphate batteries are

the go-to because they are lighter than older battery technology and store more power; however, they are much more expensive, so they are not an essential piece of equipment unless you really head off the beaten track.

Off-road caravans are, of course, pricier than traditional models (ritzier examples are well into six figures), and also get heavier and heavier as extra components are added. If your travels are limited to a few national park campsites sprinkled between caravan park stays, big water tanks and solar arrays probably aren't worth the expenditure and added towing weight. On the other hand, if you are headed deep into the outback, more water capacity is a must, as is a big fridge, and probably several other added extras.

The weight of a van needs to be a consideration for tow vehicles. It's no use having a fully loaded caravan that can't be towed because your tow vehicle can't handle the load. When making calculations for a suitable caravan for your vehicle, or vice versa, you need to consider the vehicle's towing capacity, and the weight of a fully loaded van (the gross combination mass), which would factor in water, extra fuel, food and belongings. Just taking into account the unpacked weight is not enough. If you are unsure, consult the vehicle or caravan manufacturer, or contact the caravan body in your state.

Pop-top and compact off-roaders help cut down on some of this weight, making them a more fuel-economical option, and generally more manoeuvrable due to their lower centre of gravity. Pop-tops do sacrifice some insulation due to thinner walls, and have less overhead storage space as the roof compresses down into the interior. When raised, an inset of approximately half a metre, generally made of canvas or some other material, fills in the added space while maintaining the van's weatherproofing.

Compacts have traditionally been smaller, hard-shelled on-road caravans, but off-road examples are becoming increasingly popular due to their superior towability. They vary greatly in design – some almost resembling a hard-shelled swag – but most comprise body extension mechanisms to speedily increase the living area.

When caravans are bought new, specific modifications can be catered to your intended use, which is a nice luxury for some. Manufacturers are always endeavouring to use lighter materials to cut down weight and limit strain on the tow vehicle. In other words, you can have your cake and eat it, too! But whether you are buying new or used, gauge the needs you have based on the kind of travel you want to do, and narrow down your choices with that information.

One thing to be wary of is whether a caravan's warranty actually allows for off-road use. It is rare, but some 'off-road' manufacturers don't allow for off-road use in the fine print, so do your research and check online reviews before making a decision. ↙

AUSTRACK CAMPERS
& OFFROAD HYBRID CARAVANS
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BUILT FOR
OUT THERE

AUSTRACK CAMPERS: BUILT TOUGH, BUILT TO LAST

Whether you're chasing thrills, craving a family getaway, or seeking luxury, Austrack Campers are built to make lasting memories. Named after Australia's iconic tracks, our campers are built for handling any terrain and packed with features that make off-grid living a breeze. From outback dunes to beachside camps, all you need is a destination, and we'll take care of the rest.

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Off-grid luxury redefined

Market Direct Campers' new MKIII range with ACPLUS® is the perfect blend of sophistication and off-road capability.

Market Direct Campers (MDC) is proud to introduce its highly anticipated ACPLUS® MKIII range, the latest evolution in off-road caravanning. Boasting unparalleled advancements in off-grid electrical capabilities, as well as featuring a completely reimagined interior and exterior look, the ACPLUS MKIII range is set to unleash a new era of off-grid capability and style.

The ACPLUS MKIII range takes a leap forward with a significant enhancement in electrical capabilities. With improved solar power (up to 1225 watts), expanded battery capacity (600 ampere hours of lithium), increased Projecta inverter functionality (up to 3000 watts pure sine wave), and enhanced Projecta charging capabilities (up to 180-ampere AC and 75-ampere DC), these off-road caravans are engineered to thrive off the grid. Air conditioning and other appliances run seamlessly off-grid, utilising a top-of-the-range auto-transfer Projecta inverter running off the 600 ampere hours of LiFePRO+® lithium battery power. In a relationship spanning more than 10 years, the ACPLUS electrical system was designed and tested in collaboration with Projecta Australia.

The addition of key appliances – such as front-loader washing machines, microwaves, and European-made Autoterm diesel heaters and induction cooktops across select models – takes MDC's already well-appointed model range to the next level.

Other signature features have also been added, such as MDC's inside/outside dual-access rollout pantry and external TV compartments on certain models.

The exterior upgrades are nothing short of impressive. Selected models feature new drawbar-mounted storage boxes and external service ladders, enhancing both convenience and accessibility. The addition of large, slimline tinted windows and bold, green exterior decals really contribute to the MKIII's contemporary yet rugged aesthetic.

Step inside the MKIII range and experience a world of modern luxury. The new range boasts modern oak timber–style laminated bench and countertop finishes, paired with sophisticated gloss grey cabinetry. Combined with sleek black sinks, tapware and fixtures, the reimagined interior really is the definition of elegance. Wireless phone charging pads are also a standard inclusion on all models across the ACPLUS MKIII range.

'The ACPLUS MKIII range represents a significant leap forward for MDC,' says Vaughan Hindley, Managing Director of MDC. 'We've focused on enhancing not only the off-road capabilities, but also the overall experience for our customers. The improved electrical systems, striking exterior, and modern interior showcase our commitment to innovation and progress. With each model reflecting functional improvements and additions, the ACPLUS MKIII range is a testament to MDC's vision of leading in functional innovation and setting new industry standards.'

Visit www.marketdirect.com.au/mkiii-range/ for more information.

Breaking news: MDC launches on-road caravan range!

Escape more with new Market Direct Campers Forte SR on-road caravan models.

Market Direct Campers (MDC) is excited to announce the release of its brand-new Forte SR on-road caravan range. Lightweight, smart, sleek and in layouts to suit almost everyone, MDC's seven Forte SR models are built with MDC's trusted reliability and reputation, and are more affordable than ever before!

With some models up to 30 per cent lighter than MDC's equivalent off-road caravan model offering, anyone who is looking for a quality on-road caravan from a well-established brand, at an affordable price, will find it hard to go past the all-new Forte SR series.

The Forte SR series has models ranging from nine feet to 22 feet, with unrivalled standard inclusions and features rarely seen in the on-road caravan market – starting from an impressive introductory price of $28,990.

Drawing on more than 15 years of expertise in building some of the toughest off-road caravans in Australia, MDC has incorporated numerous identical design principles into the development of its new Forte SR series. Built upon its own in-house engineered and manufactured hot-dipped galvanised chassis, with independent trailing arm suspension and aluminium body frame, much of MDC's DNA is clearly evident in its latest on-road caravan series offering. Customers can 'escape with confidence', knowing the Forte SR series is backed by MDC's five-year structural/chassis and drawbar warranty.

'I'm thrilled with the release of our newest Forte SR on-road caravan series, which showcases our unwavering dedication to quality while providing a lighter, more affordable choice for our customers. The Forte SR series not only enables more Australians to enjoy their adventures, but also instills confidence, knowing they're doing so in an MDC,' says Vaughan Hindley, Managing Director of MDC.

Boasting a more-than-capable electrical system, all Forte SR models come standard with 200 ampere hours of LiFePRO+® lithium battery power, a Projecta 50-ampere battery charger, a Projecta 1600-watt pure sine wave inverter, 350 watts of rooftop solar, and 25-ampere maximum power point tracking solar controller and DC charging.

Quality appliances from trusted brands such as Truma, Thetford, Dometic and Caframo are featured as standard across the Forte SR range.

The exterior and interior design of the Forte SR on-road series remains unmistakably MDC, effortlessly combining functionality, comfort, and style that is synonymous with its off-road counterparts.

Discover MDC's new Forte SR caravan series at one of the company's eight showrooms around Australia. For more information, visit www.marketdirect.com.au/forte-sr-series/.

OFFLINE
CAMPERS
SOLITAIRE

Do you compromise on where you go or what you bring?

There's 817,000 kilometres of road in Australia, 462,000 kilometres of which is unsealed, dirt or gravel. That's 60 per cent of roads not designed for everyday towing, leaving a lot to potentially explore.

Heading off-road sounds a lot like roughing it. Although the terrain might be rougher, that doesn't mean there has to be a similar drop in comfort. Off-road caravans open up more areas to explore; but longer towing, taller overall height and a larger width than most cars does limit just how rugged you can go.

Hybrids are a great alternative, providing the internal living space of a larger caravan without the increase in physical size when driving. But let's face it: there are the right compromises and the wrong ones.

The sweet spot for Offline Campers is the combination of capability, capacity, comfort and simplicity – the weight, dimensions and suspension to go almost anywhere; the capacity and comfort to keep you there; and the simplicity to move between camping and touring with ease. Let's take a closer look at each.

Capacity

How much do you bring with you, and where do you store it? For long distances between towns, you want to keep things topped up across water, fuel and food storage.

Your set-up should include ample storage at point of use, plenty of water for drinking and washing, and multiple fuel sources for heating and cooking.

Another important element is power. Multiple charging options – from solar, car and powered sites – are stored in lithium batteries, and used through 12-volt and 240-volt systems. Your capacity should make sense for the trip you're on.

Capability

Dedicated off-road suspension is one part of a larger equation. Keeping things light, smaller in profile, and with high ground clearance is a better measure of off-road capability.

While larger caravans might be built for off-road, how do they handle washouts, river crossings and U-turns on dirt tracks? How do you self-recover something of this size? Balance the capacity with capability by keeping the tare weight low and your payload large enough for all the necessities.

Comfort

Comfort for Offline Campers is a proper innerspring mattress, heating and cooling control, plenty of airflow, and lighting. A toilet and a shower are must-haves for many, as is an inside living space for when the weather turns.

Larger vans have this in spades, but add weight and physical size to your towing, further limiting where you can travel to.

Simplicity

Simplicity is removing complicated set-ups, unpacking storage boxes and the generally annoying parts of camping. Hybrids may have more set-up than a traditional caravan when you get to camp, but it shouldn't impact your relaxation time.

Keeping things simple to use, easy to set up and storage at point of use, there is less stress with a well-thought-out hybrid.

New Solitaire Hybrid

Offline Campers has just launched the Solitaire Hybrid in 14 feet and 16 feet – engineered and manufactured in Australia for off-road, off-grid adventures. With the right balance of comfort, simplicity, capacity and capability, there is very little compromise between what you bring and where you go.

For more information, visit offlinecampers.com.au/solitaire-hybrid-camper.

OFFLINE
CAMPERS

MAKE THE SWITCH IN 2025
IN AN OFFROAD HYBRID WITHOUT DOWNSIZING ON COMFORT
3 HYBRID SIZES
The award winning Domino or the Solitaire in 14′ and 16′
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DOMINO

SOLITAIRE 14’

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EXPLORE OUR HYBRID RANGE

Fully customisable
Fast set-up and pack down
Australian made

Queen size bed
Dedicated offroad chassis and suspension

LUXURY. ANYWHERE.

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Revolutionise your rig

Accessories to enhance your caravanning experience this summer.

When it comes to caravanning, a few well-chosen accessories can make all the difference between a basic set-up and a truly seamless experience. While most caravanners are familiar with the essentials – like portable solar panels, cooking equipment and toolkits – some lesser-known gadgets bring unique conveniences that you might not have thought to add. The following selection of niche accessories offers practical, space-saving, and innovative solutions that will add new levels of comfort, security, and enjoyment to your travels.

PORTABLE ULTRASONIC CLOTHES WASHER

Washing clothes on the road can be a hassle, but a portable ultrasonic clothes washer changes that. These compact devices can be placed into a sink or tub, and use ultrasonic waves to break down dirt and stains on your clothes. Perfect for handwash items or emergencies, this washer offers a compact alternative to laundromats and handwashing, giving you fresh clothes without fuss. With its compact size and efficiency, it's an essential item for longer trips when space is tight but cleanliness is essential.

BIOMETRIC FINGERPRINT PADLOCK

Security is always a priority when travelling, and a biometric fingerprint padlock provides a modern, secure solution for protecting your caravan compartments. Rather than fumbling with keys, simply place your finger on the lock to gain access. The padlock is compact and sturdy, and can secure cabinets, closets, or outside compartments, adding an extra layer of protection. It's a perfect solution for those who want both security and convenience without needing to keep track of a physical key.

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DIGITAL MICROSCOPE CAMERA

This one's for the curious caravanner! A digital microscope camera lets you explore the microscopic details of nature – think leaves, rocks and insects – with magnified, high-definition images. Small enough to fit in your pocket, this device connects to your smartphone, bringing nature's tiniest wonders into focus. It's an entertaining, educational tool, especially for caravanners travelling with children or those with a keen interest in the natural world.

MAGNETIC SPICE JARS

Magnetic spice jars help make your kitchen area more efficient by attaching directly to metal surfaces. Keep spices fresh and ready to use without cluttering drawers or shelves. This clever idea saves space and adds functionality to your cooking space, making meal prep easier and more organised.

NANO UV STERILISATION WAND

This small, rechargeable UV sterilisation wand lets you disinfect surfaces without using any chemicals. Just wave it over high-touch areas in your caravan – like door handles, switches and even cutlery – for a quick sanitising sweep. The compact size makes it easy to carry around and use on the go.

PORTABLE INDUCTION COOKTOP MAT

An induction cooktop mat is a slim cooking tool that can be stored away and used on any countertop – even outside on a public barbecue! With specific heat zones, it uses induction heating for safe, efficient cooking without open flames.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 124

Limitless journeys await with McHitch

Adventure knows no bounds with McHitch, the ultimate coupling system that transforms every caravan journey into an adventure of limitless possibilities. In the vast and varied terrains of Australia, McHitch stands as a symbol of reliability, ensuring that no destination is beyond reach.

At the core of McHitch's design is an understanding of the adventurous spirit that drives caravanners. Its products are designed around unlocking a world where every path is accessible, every landscape is explorable, and every adventure is achievable. With McHitch, challenging terrains become inviting, distant horizons become attainable, and the unknown becomes familiar.

McHitch's robust and versatile coupling technology is the key to new-found freedom. Engineered for superior performance, it ensures that your caravan moves in harmony with your vehicle, providing unmatched stability and control. Whether navigating the rugged outback, winding mountain paths or coastal tracks, McHitch maintains a steadfast connection, allowing you to focus on the journey and the breathtaking views.

Embrace the call of the wild with confidence. McHitch is your gateway to experiences and memories that last a lifetime.

For the caravan enthusiast who believes in a world without limits, McHitch is the only choice. With McHitch, every adventure, – no matter how grand or remote – is within your grasp.

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Uniglide Trailer Coupling®
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
3.5 TONNE AUTO COUPLER
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MCHITCH.COM.AU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 122

It's perfect for quick outdoor meals and frees up kitchen space inside.

OUTDOOR PRIVACY TENT

An outdoor privacy tent offers a portable space for showering, changing clothes, or using the bathroom while camping. These lightweight tents can be set up quickly and are designed to provide privacy in open areas. Look for models with pop-up designs for an easy set up and take-down. This accessory is perfect for those who value convenience and modesty while enjoying the outdoors.

FLEXIBLE FUNNEL AND SPILL GUARD

A collapsible silicone funnel that doubles as a spill guard makes it easy to transfer liquids without mess. Perfect for filling water tanks, adding oil or even cooking prep (just make sure you have different ones for outdoor and indoor tasks, obviously!), this tool takes up minimal space and saves clean-up time.

WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Access to clean water is a must for summer caravanning, especially if you're exploring remote areas. A portable water purification system ensures that you always have safe drinking water, regardless of your source. Many systems can be connected to your caravan's water tank or used independently with jugs, letting you fill up confidently even when you're away from town supplies.

SMART BATTERY MONITORS

Keeping tabs on your power usage is crucial, especially when you're off-grid. Smart battery monitors offer real-time feedback on your battery levels, charging status and even your overall energy consumption. These monitors are especially useful if you're using solar power, as they can show you how much charge your panels are contributing. Many have bluetooth connectivity, allowing you to monitor your system from a smartphone, which is handy for staying on top of your power situation.

ULTRASONIC BUG-REPELLENT KEYCHAIN

Mosquitoes and insects can ruin an otherwise perfect campsite, but a portable ultrasonic bug repellent keychain is an easy solution. This small gadget emits ultrasonic soundwaves that deter bugs without the need for sprays or chemical repellents. Attach it to a keychain or place it near your campsite to keep your surroundings insect-free. Lightweight and chemical-free, it's perfect for caravanners who want an eco-friendly and low-maintenance option for insect control.

PORTABLE HAMMOCK

A portable hammock is a delightful accessory for lounging at your campsite or between trees on a beautiful day. Portable hammocks are lightweight, and easy to set up and pack away, making them ideal for relaxation during your travels. They often come with built-in storage pockets or mosquito netting for added comfort, providing a cosy spot to unwind after a day of adventures.

WEATHER-RESISTANT STORAGE BINS

Weather-resistant storage bins can help you keep your caravan organised while protecting your items from moisture and dirt. These bins come in various sizes and can be used for storing outdoor gear, food supplies, or camping essentials. Look for bins with tight-fitting lids and stackable designs to maximise your caravan's storage space.

UV PROTECTION WINDOW FILM

Applying UV protection window film to your caravan windows can help keep the interior cool during the summer heat. This film blocks harmful UV rays and reduces glare, creating a more comfortable environment inside your caravan while also protecting your furnishings from fading.

PORTABLE BEACH TENT

A portable beach tent provides shade and protection from the sun on beach days or picnics. These tents are lightweight and designed for quick set up, offering a comfortable space to relax away from direct sunlight. Many models also include sand pockets for added stability against wind. ↙

Why choose a composting toilet?

Are you trying to decide between a cassette toilet or composting toilet for your motorhome, caravan or camper? Composting toilets are gaining popularity with those who are wanting to travel off-grid or for longer, without needing to find a dumping point.

In Australia, the OGO™ Origin and Nature's Head© are the best-ranked composting toilets, with many caravan manufacturers installing them as an alternative. Let's quickly delve into the features of a composting toilet to see if it is the right fit for you.

How often do I need to empty?
You can travel for longer with a composting toilet. On average, for two people travelling full time, you will need to change the OGO compositing chamber every 3–4 weeks. The Nature's Head capacity allows you to travel for up to six weeks. The urine bottle will need to be emptied every two days, which can be done safely around a tree or shrub.

Do composting toilets smell?
Contrary to common misconceptions, composting toilets are odour-controlled, due to the urine and solids being separated into two chambers, which eliminates odours.

How do they work?
Unlike their chemical counterparts, composting toilets use no water or harsh chemicals, making them a sustainable choice. It transforms the waste using a composting medium like coir peat. This process not only negates the need for water, but also repurposes waste into beneficial compost, which can be sent to landfill in a compostable bag, buried or further composted in a designated bin.

Are they simple to use and maintain?
Composting toilets are self-contained systems that require little maintenance. You are not required to find dumping stations when emptying.

So, if you're looking for an environmentally conscious, odourless, water-saving, easy-to-maintain and wallet-friendly option, then a composting toilet is your answer.

For more information, visit www.natureshead.com.au or www.ogotoilet.com.au. Alternatively, call EnviroPro Alternatives Pty Ltd on 1800 707 076.

Say goodbye...
to dump points

Do you want freedom to travel without needing to find a dumping station? Have you considered installing a composting toilet into your caravan, motorhome, van or camper?

EnviroPro Alternatives offers two of the world's best-ranked solutions. These eco-friendly, composting toilets are:

Odourless | Space saving | Waterless
Easy to use | Low maintenance

OGO™ NATURE'S HEAD® Self-Contained Composting Toilets

Perfect for anyone travelling off grid or embracing life on the road.

Distributed in Australia by EnviroPro ALTERNATIVES PTY LTD

To find out more call 1800 707 076 or email info@enviropro.com.au

www.enviropro.com.au

Why everyone loves Sirocco fans

There is a reason that ‘the best vans have Sirocco fans’ has become a common sentiment among van enthusiasts across Australia. Produced in Canada by SEEKR by Caframo, the Sirocco II fan has emerged as the top choice by consumers and manufacturers alike. Praised for its efficiency, durability and smart design, the Sirocco II is the number-one RV fan chosen by consumers, and is found in approximately 70 per cent of caravans! What sets the Sirocco II apart is its combination of features tailored specifically for the caravanning community.

‘From our situation, Sirocco’s got the name. It’s the state-of-the-art fan for RV vehicles,’ says Bruce Astbury from Jayco.

‘As you can imagine, with a top-of-the-range caravan, we need top-of-the-range accessories, and these Sirocco fans have been an absolute game changer for off-road caravanning. When you don’t want to use a lot of power, these are what you use to cool the van right down,’ says Ethan Pole from Caravan HQ.

At the NSW Caravan Camping Holiday Supershow, the Let’s Go Queensland Caravan & Camping Supershow, and the Melbourne Caravan & Camping Leisurefest, the Sirocco II was praised by manufacturers as the only fan for their customers. With 12- and 24-volt auto-sensing technology, three speeds, four timer settings, and an innovative gimbal design allowing for 360-degree airflow, the Sirocco II provides everything needed in a cooling fan.

‘Of course, when you’re [choosing] a product [for] your van, you’re looking for trusted products … with a three-year warranty on the Sirocco fan, how can you go wrong?’ says Ken Ferguson from Caravan HQ.

‘It’s important to make sure that with any product that we put into our vans, we have confidence [in knowing] that they are not going to come back with problems, and that’s why we use Sirocco fans,’ says David Wilson from Set Up Camp and Hilltop Caravans.

The #vanlife community in Australia has also embraced the Sirocco II fan with open arms! Trusted to keep every member of the family cool and comfortable, the Sirocco II has travelled across Australia. From stunning beaches, to tropical paradises and through the Australian outback, the Sirocco II has brought cooling relief and reliability to every adventure. With a three-year warranty, a dedicated customer service team, and backing by manufacturers and stockists alike, the Sirocco II is trusted to endure every trip, and keep any space cool and comfortable.

The best vans have Sirocco fans, and it’s because customers have placed their trust in a Canadian-made product designed to go with you wherever you go.

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Introducing the Gerber ComplEAT Camp Cook Collection

Whether it's preparing a meal, cooking dinner, or serving it to the whole family, the Gerber ComplEAT Camp Cook Collection gives you all the tools you need to enjoy a full cooking experience on your next outdoor adventure.

The revolutionary ComplEAT collection is Gerber's first foray into the camp cooking space, and further showcases the goal for the brand: to inspire people to adventure with confidence.

The collection is made up of full-size, high-quality camp cookware that feeds the whole group. Thoughtfully designed around the needs of campsite chefs of all skill levels, this purpose-built collection emphasises robust construction and materials, packability, and usability for a no-compromise outdoor cooking experience. The 16-piece ComplEAT Cook Set is the centrepiece for the collection and is completed with an additional seven products, including the ComplEAT Cutting Board Set, the ComplEAT Knife Set, the ComplEAT Tableware Set, the ComplEAT Lightweight Utensil Set (in new colourways 'Baltic Haze' and 'Burnt Orange'), the ComplEAT Multi-Fork (available in 'Baltic Haze' and 'Burnt Orange'), the ComplEAT Griddle, and the ComplEAT Sauté Pan.

Pack together

The innovative 16-piece ComplEAT Cook Set has everything you need to easily feed a group of hungry campers. Designed to seamlessly nest together, the cookware set offers full kitchen capabilities while saving precious space for other essentials. This camping cookware set features a stockpot and sauté pan with generous cooking surfaces and three-ply base construction for even heat distribution. The tableware set assists during prep work and makes room for generous portions once the meal is ready. When campers are full, everything packs together in the storage bag for safe and compact storage between trips.

Each set includes a 2.5-litre sauté pan, a detachable handle, a basting dome lid, a 4.5-litre stockpot, a slim lid, four plates, four bowls, a mixing bowl, a hot pad, and a storage bag.

Now you can feed the whole gang!

The ComplEAT Griddle is sure to become a favourite non-stick for the campsite. This full-size camping griddle pan is made from carbon steel, giving the same durable non-stick qualities of cast iron, but without the weight, after being seasoned. The square shape maximises the cooking surface area and tall sidewalls keep food contained. The silicone-coated detachable handle is comfortable during use and is easily removed, making packing a breeze.

Cutting and preparing

Kitchen prep at camp just got a whole lot easier thanks to the packable ComplEAT Cutting Board Set – no more loose knives and cutting boards floating around your camp storage. This meal-prep solution features two dual-sided outdoor cutting boards in bamboo and polypropylene – allowing veggies and proteins to be kept separate – as well as a paring knife, a chef knife, and a storage tray. The set has everything you need to prepare a full meal for a crowd!

When it's time to pack up camp, the innovative locking design has extra storage space for other kitchen essentials, plus everything nests together for secure and compact storage.

Prepare elaborate meals that will ensure you're never 'roughing it' while camping.

Tableware and utensils

Camping mealtimes often mean lugging multiple utensils in prime real estate: the backpack. Gerber has looked at the process – from prep to clean up – and delivered an innovative tool that solves the issue. The ComplEAT Lightweight Utensil Set comprises four components: a spoon, a fork, a dual-sided spatula, and a four-function multi-tool. All four components together weigh less than 70 grams, and nest together for a slim storage solution. Rather than leave those useful tongs behind, the ComplEAT offers a unique solution: use the spatula and fork.

The new ComplEAT collection from Gerber has everything you need to make memorable meals on your next camping adventure.

Available in store at selected Anaconda stores nationwide.

Keeping safe IN SUMMER

BY GABBY APTER

YOUR FIRE RISK TODAY IS
MODERATE
HIGH
EXTREME
CATASTROPHIC

As the summer season brings longer days and more outdoor activities, it's essential to stay vigilant about safety. From fire safety, to preparing for seasonal storms and wet road conditions, understanding and implementing these precautions can make all the difference. Whether it's ensuring you have an emergency plan in place or driving cautiously during unexpected summer rains, these tips can help keep your family and community safe during the warm months.

FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is a critical concern during summer, especially in regions prone to bushfire. When planning outdoor activities, it is crucial to know if you're in a fire ban district, and to stay aware of the current fire danger rating. Fire danger ratings are forecast across four days and help you to understand when the area may be at risk of bushfire. Being in a fire ban district means you cannot light, maintain or use a fire in the open, or carry out any activity in the open that may cause a fire. Fire bans are put into place when the weather creates a heightened risk of fires starting and spreading, so it is important to follow these rules accordingly.

It is also important to be familiar with emergency warnings. This is a system that not only applies to bushfires, but also to a variety of natural hazards – such as floods, storms and extreme heat. The three key alerts are advice (yellow), watch and act (orange), and emergency warning (red). Advice means there is no immediate danger, but you should stay informed and monitor the situation. Watch and act indicates conditions are changing and you need to be prepared to take action. Emergency warning is the highest level of alert, signalling immediate danger, where you must act now to ensure your safety. Keeping up to date with these alerts can help you respond quickly and appropriately in an emergency situation.

EMERGENCY PLANS

During severe weather in the summer, it is crucial to establish a comprehensive plan in the event of an emergency. This plan should cover multiple scenarios you may find yourself in during the warmer months. For vehicles, an emergency roadside kit is important to keep on hand. This can include items such as jumper cables, a well-stocked first-aid kit, a torch, and a basic tool kit.

Keeping a duplicate of this kit in your caravan is also a smart move so that you're prepared no matter what. Other emergency necessities can include keeping a list of important contact numbers handy. This should include family members, emergency services and local authorities. If you have pets, ensuring they are microchipped and that their details are up to date can help them to be easily identified in a case of evacuation. In the event of an evacuation, know the location of last resort refuges in your area, and plan your route accordingly. These refuges are designed to offer shelter in situations where other evacuation options are not available, so it's vital to know where they are before an emergency arises.

FIRST AID KIT

COMMUNICATION

Communication is key during emergencies, and there are multiple ways to ensure smart and effective communication. Have a hard copy of a local map of where you will be travelling (for instance, a *Melway* is handy if you're in Victoria, while visitor centres will have maps for the local region you're in), and tune in to local broadcast stations, as these will provide timely updates during an emergency. Have extra batteries, chargers and power banks ready if you're using battery-powered devices. It is important to not rely solely on mobile phones, and if you're using caravan wi-fi, remember that it may not always be reliable. Most importantly, remain calm and clear when communicating to ensure accurate information is being passed along and to avoid miscommunication.

Effective communication isn't just for the adults; it is important to keep kids up to speed during severe weather conditions. For families with young children, teaching them the basics of fire safety and emergency communication is crucial. Resources like those provided on the County Fire Authority website are a helpful and kid-friendly way of introducing the topic of fire safety to the young ones.

DRIVING

Driving during summer, particularly in rural or remote areas, can come with its own set of challenges. When driving, especially during long trips, ensure your brakes, tyres, lights and load are in good condition. Long trips also increase the risk of driver fatigue. If you are driving, take regular breaks and be aware of the signs of drowsiness. Signs of drowsiness can include frequent yawning and blinking, irritability, and, in serious cases, can turn into drifting between lanes, being unable to keep a consistent speed, and missing exits or road signs. Ignoring these signs can lead to accidents, so it's important to stay alert and switch drivers if possible. If needed, pull over where it is safe to rest and recoup until you're ready to hit the road again.

Driving within the northern parts of Australia, such as the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland, require further planning and preparation due to the nature of the region's wet season. Heavy rain in these areas can often cause dangerous driving conditions, such as flash flooding and reduced visibility on the road. If you find yourself needing to drive during rough conditions, always drive slowly, keep your lights on low beam to avoid glare, and stay up to date on weather conditions. Avoid driving through flooded areas, as water depths and currents can be deceiving. Carry essentials like torches and a waterproof bag to store any important or valuable belongings. As weather conditions during the wet season can change unexpectedly, planning your journey carefully and avoiding unnecessary travel during extreme weather can help keep you safe. ↙

Experience connectivity on your caravan adventures with CEL-FI ROAM R41

Are you tired of losing signal while embarking on thrilling caravanning expeditions? Say goodbye to connectivity woes and embrace seamless communication with the CEL-FI ROAM R41 – the ultimate plug-and-play mobile coverage solution crafted for the caravanning market.

Imagine this: you're cruising down scenic routes, exploring hidden gems and creating unforgettable memories with your loved ones. With the CEL-FI ROAM R41 by your side, you can enjoy uninterrupted voice calls and lightning-fast data transmission.

Designed as the perfect replacement for a CEL-FI GO G31 mobile, the CEL-FI ROAM R41 is here to revolutionise your caravanning experience in just minutes. Wave goodbye to frustrating weak signals and dropped calls; this game-changing device becomes your trusted companion, ensuring a reliable and robust mobile connection that keeps you connected throughout your journey.

Boosting mobile signal in caravans, motorhomes and boats, the CEL-FI ROAM R41 offers unparalleled versatility for nomadic explorers like you. Get ready to wander off the beaten path and still stay effortlessly connected. Its pending carrier approval for 3G and 4G signals guarantees even faster and more reliable connections, empowering you to stay in touch, stream your favourite shows, and share your adventures on social media.

Supporting an extensive range of frequencies, including 700L, 850, 900, 1800, 2100, 2600, and bands 20 and 26, the CEL-FI ROAM R41 is tailor made to meet your caravanning connectivity needs. Designed for boosting mobile signal in anything that moves and to cover a small space, the CEL-FI ROAM R41 is suitable for cars, four-wheel drives, fleet vehicles, trucks, motorhomes, caravans, trains, buses, farm machinery, emergency service vehicles and portable solutions like the CEL-FI GO Cellmate.

CEL-FI ROAM R41's state-of-the-art, fourth-generation Nextivity proprietary IntelliBoost chip ensures optimised coverage, specifically tuned to your mobile network operator signals. Experience voice calls and seamless data transfer, whether you're exploring picturesque landscapes or relaxing by the beach.

Don't let poor signal strength limit your caravanning escapades. Upgrade to the CEL-FI ROAM R41, and enjoy uninterrupted connectivity that enhances every aspect of your caravanning journey.

Upgrade and you'll experience the CEL-FI ROAM R41 benefits

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- Potential of 5G support once operators approve.
- Better uplink to extend the range from a cell tower.
- Band 26 support, offering futureproofing.
- Greater band support adding 2600 and 850/900 in the one unit.

But the best part is that installation is a breeze! The CEL-FI ROAM R41 is designed with your convenience in mind. Simply plug it in, and voila! You're ready to embark on your next adventure with confidence. No technical know-how is required, and there is no complex set-up – just effortless connectivity on the go.

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- 3G 4G Support for 3G and 4G
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A camper's best friend

Designed and developed in Australia, for Australia, iTechworld's X Range lithium batteries are the epitome of versatility. They are genuine drop-in replacements, allowing seamless integration into your existing set-up without replacing anything in your system.

Not only is switching out your old batteries the easiest way to lose weight, but it couldn't be simpler – it's as easy as taking out the old and putting in the new! An impressive IP67 waterproof rating certifies that these batteries are perfect for various demanding outdoor environments, including external mounting on caravans, and under-bonnet on four-wheel drives, boats and more – you won't have to worry about these getting splashed!

The X Range has been engineered to be installed in various locations. No matter your size or space needs, you'll be able to find a battery that works for you – from the trim 100SX to the beefy 400X PRO. When you're working in a tight area like a caravan, having plenty of options when installing your battery is a weight off your shoulders!

Compared to conventional lead-acid batteries, the X Range provides numerous benefits that revolutionise power storage and how caravanners integrate their energy systems. iTechworld's lithium batteries are significantly lighter than traditional counterparts, and this weight loss directly translates to increased fuel efficiency and more flexible installation options. For instance, the iTECH400X PRO, with a 400-ampere-hour usable capacity, weighs only 38 kilograms. In contrast, an equivalent AGM battery weighs approximately 240 kilograms, making it ideal for those seeking powerful performance with a weight reduction.

These batteries outperform their lead-acid counterparts, which offer only approximately 50 per cent usable capacity. The lightweight design reduces caravan weight, while the ability to cycle 10,000* times ensures a longer life span than traditional batteries.

iTechworld is committed to safety and compliance, ensuring that its batteries comply with Australian and international standards, including IEC: 62619. This ensures users' peace of mind, knowing that their power solution is reliable and compatible with various systems. Additionally, with a five-year Australian warranty, you can trust in the durability and longevity of iTechworld's batteries.

Working in a tight spot? iTechworld has got you covered. The X Range includes a wide range of shapes and sizes, like the slimline iTECH100SX. At just 110 metres wide and weighing a ridiculously light 11.3 kilograms, it's perfect for space-conscious campers needing a reliable battery.

iTechworld's new lithium technologies are transforming how Australians power their off-road adventures. With superior performance, seamless integration, unmatched reliability, and effortless management, the iTechworld X Range is a camper's best friend.

*5000-plus at 80 per cent. 10,000-plus at 40 per cent.

POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Main Menu
SOC
80%
Remaining Capacity 320Ah
Charge Isolator ON
Discharge Isolator OFF
Balancing OFF
Safemode OFF
Voltage 13.00V
Current -2.10A
Power -26.88W
Average Voltage 3.25V
Total Cycles 1
Status DISCHARGING
Temperature 23.0°C
3.25V
3.25V
3.25V
Connections
Main Menu
Control Centre
Information

iTECHWORLD
THE POWER EXPERT
iTECH120X PRO
LITHIUM LIFEPO4
12.8V | 120AH | 1536WH

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Monitor & manage your iTechworld XRange & Super Slim batteries, with the iTECHCONNECT battery management app.

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Monday - Friday | 8:30AM - 5:00PM AWST

POWER PERFECTION:

a battery guide for caravans

For caravan enthusiasts in Australia, staying off-grid often means finding reliable ways to power the essentials – lighting, appliances and electronics – without always relying on the grid. Battery power is a top choice for those seeking freedom on the road, allowing travellers to explore remote areas with a steady, sustainable power source.

WHY BATTERY POWER?

Battery power systems offer independence from traditional power sources, giving caravanners more flexibility. Many of Australia's scenic routes and national parks are far from towns with easy power access, making a strong battery set-up indispensable. With the right configuration, you can enjoy the comforts of home – such as refrigerators, fans and device charging – without sacrificing mobility.

Beyond the practicality, battery power is more environmentally friendly than traditional generators. Solar-charged battery set-ups, in particular, allow you to tap into renewable energy, making your travels more sustainable and, in many places, quieter. For those aiming for an eco-friendly adventure, it's an ideal choice.

TYPES OF CARAVAN BATTERIES

There are several types of batteries available, each with unique benefits and considerations. Some of the most popular types include:

1. Standard lead-acid deep-cycle batteries
Traditional lead-acid batteries are an affordable option for caravan power needs. They come in two primary forms: flooded lead-acid and absorbent glass mat (AGM) batteries. Flooded lead-acid batteries require regular maintenance, including topping up with distilled water, and must remain upright to prevent spills. AGM batteries, in contrast, are sealed and maintenance-free, with better resistance to vibration; however, both types have limitations on how deeply they can be discharged without affecting their life span. They are heavier and bulkier, but are typically the most budget-friendly choice.

2. Lithium-ion batteries
Lithium-ion batteries, especially lithium iron phosphate batteries, have surged in popularity because of their high energy density, lighter weight and longer life span. These batteries allow deeper discharges, sometimes up to 80–90 per cent, without damaging the battery, which means they offer more usable power than lead-acid batteries of the same capacity. They're more adaptable to varied orientations in your caravan and perform well in extreme temperatures. Lithium-ion batteries are a higher up-front investment, but they're ideal for frequent travellers looking to maximise power efficiency and save weight.

3. Gel batteries
Gel batteries, a subset of lead-acid technology, use a gelled electrolyte that makes them spill-proof and more resistant to extreme temperatures, especially heat. Unlike standard flooded

batteries, gel batteries can be installed in a variety of positions and withstand rough terrain, making them ideal for off-road caravanning. They have a lower self-discharge rate, so they hold their charge well over time; however, they still don't offer the same depth of discharge or life span as lithium options, so they're better suited for those with moderate power needs and an interest in added durability.

4. Enhanced flooded batteries

Enhanced flooded batteries (EFBs) are an upgrade over standard flooded batteries, providing greater cycle durability and the ability to handle deeper discharges without as much degradation. EFBs are resilient and perform better than traditional lead-acid batteries under conditions where frequent charging and discharging are required, such as powering multiple appliances in a caravan. Despite this, they still require careful maintenance and are typically heavier than lithium options, so they work best for those who need extra durability but aren't ready to invest in lithium technology.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BATTERY SIZE

Selecting the right battery capacity depends on the appliances and devices you plan to use and how long you want to go off-grid. For example, a couple of lights, a small refrigerator and occasional phone charging will require far less power than running a microwave, water heater, or air conditioning unit.

Battery capacity is measured in ampere hours, and the average caravan set-up uses around 100–200 ampere hours daily. To calculate your specific needs, add up the wattage of each device, multiply by the hours you plan to use it, and divide by 12 (if you're using a 12-volt battery). Many users find that a 100-ampere-hour lithium battery or 120-ampere-hour AGM battery is a good starting point for moderate power needs.

CHARGING YOUR BATTERY

A well-rounded caravan power set-up often involves multiple charging sources to ensure that your battery stays topped up.

1. Solar panels

Solar is a go-to choice for Australian caravanners due to our abundance of sunshine. Portable or roof-mounted solar panels can charge batteries during the day, and some set-ups even allow for energy storage to last through cloudy periods. Aim for a solar system that produces at least 200 watts if you're aiming to run multiple devices.

2. DC–DC chargers

These chargers draw power from your caravan's alternator while you're driving. DC–DC chargers help keep batteries charged during travel, so you arrive at your next site with a full or partially charged battery. They're especially useful for long road trips and are compatible with both lead-acid and lithium batteries.

3. Mains power

When you have access to powered campsites, plugging into mains power offers a way to recharge your battery bank fully. This is often a more time-efficient way to top up batteries, though it's less applicable for those who prefer off-grid locations. ↙

BATTERY MAINTENANCE TIPS

Proper maintenance can help extend the life of your batteries, no matter the type. Here are a few best practices:

- **Avoid full discharge:** For lead-acid and gel batteries, avoid draining them below 50 per cent to maintain their life span. Lithium-ion batteries are more forgiving, but it's still wise to avoid deep discharges where possible.
- **Keep terminals clean:** Corroded terminals can reduce efficiency. Clean the terminals periodically to ensure a good connection.
- **Temperature awareness:** Extreme temperatures, especially heat, can shorten battery life. Keep your batteries cool in summer and avoid overexposure to direct sunlight where possible.
- **Regular testing:** Periodic testing of your battery's voltage can help you monitor its health and catch issues early.

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18 MONTH WARRANTY*
LONG CYCLE LIFE
DEEP DISCHARGE CAPABILITY
IMPROVED RECHARGE EFFICIENCY
REDUCED SELF DISCHARGE
SUPERIOR HEAT RESISTANCE
WARNING: HEAVY 20 - 30kg Exercise care when lifting
N70T
LONG CYCLE LIFE WITH SUPERIOR HEAT RESISTANCE
SUITABLE FOR UNDER BONNET USE

Choosing the right deep-cycle battery

Are you planning on going off-grid to places where phone reception is a luxury, and people are few and far between? Having the right equipment packed to help you get on your way is important, but making sure you have enough power to sustain your time away is even more vital.

In situations where high-current draw accessories are being used (such as lighting, fridges, or recharging mobile devices), fitting a secondary deep-cycle battery is a must, as it keeps the starting battery isolated and at full charge.

Choosing the right deep-cycle battery is vital. Luckily, there's a Century battery available to suit most situations and requirements. If it's going under-bonnet, a flooded deep-cycle battery offers superior heat tolerance and vibration resistance to ensure that it'll be able to handle the extreme conditions often experienced within your vehicle's engine bay. Century's N70T is a popular choice for four-wheel drive dual-battery systems located under-bonnet, and offers a maintainable design to allow the electrolyte levels to be topped up for extended battery service life.

For confined spaces, such as inside the battery compartment of a caravan, an absorbed glass mat (AGM) battery would be the preferable choice. One such battery is Century's C12-105XDA, which is an AGM battery offering fast recharging capabilities and long cycle life. AGM technology acts as a sponge-like material to suspend loose electrolyte within highly porous glass fibre mat separators. They're also sealed maintenance-free and non-spillable, providing greater flexibility with mounting options – even side-mounting on angles up to 90 degrees.

An even more exciting prospect is Century's Dual Force+ AGM multipurpose battery, which is designed to go where no other deep-cycle AGM battery can – right in your vehicle's engine bay. This dual-purpose starting and deep-cycling battery features a special polypropylene case, which assists with heat dispersion – essential for the under-bonnet temperatures that Aussie four-wheel drives can get to – and provides up to 20 times greater vibration and impact resistance for extreme off-road conditions.

If light weight and quicker recharge times are what you need, Century Lithium Pro batteries are designed to provide long-lasting power in recreational deep-cycle applications by offering a compelling energy density in a relatively lightweight footprint when compared to conventional lead-acid batteries. Utilising lithium iron phosphate technology, Century Lithium Pro batteries are capable of delivering over 3000 cycles[1] at 80 per cent depth of discharge, and offer a longer service life compared to lead-acid batteries – while providing more usable energy and up to 10-times faster recharging*.

For more information on the full range of Century deep-cycle batteries, visit www.centurybatteries.com.au or call 13 22 87.

[1] *At 80 per cent DOD/#Not suitable for cranking/starting and under bonnet, grid connected solar systems or float charge applications.*

**Compared with standard flooded lead acid battery.*

Explore without limits
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CB123-3587a

Battery Recovery
RECOVERING
Time Remaining
15 m
STOP

Introducing the new BCDC Alpha from REDARC

REDARC is excited to launch its next generation of DC-to-DC battery chargers: the BCDC Alpha. Known for its market-leading BCDC range of battery chargers, REDARC has taken innovation to the next level, setting the benchmark for DC-to-DC charging with the new BCDC Alpha.

Designed with an array of built-in features, the BCDC Alpha is the only DC-to-DC charger on the market with the capability to revive a flat start battery using excess solar power thanks to the Start Battery Recover feature. Through the compatible smartphone app, bring your start battery back to life with the push of a button, no matter where you are, getting you back on the road more quickly and giving you peace of mind when travelling off the grid. BCDC Alpha also features Start Battery Charging. When your secondary battery is full, this charger will utilise excess solar power to automatically top up your start battery, ensuring you are always charged up.

Thanks to integration with the RedVision app, the BCDC Alpha offers advanced wireless connectivity to keep you informed. Monitor your charger in real time and get instant access to your charge status, battery temperature and system performance – all in the palm of your hand.

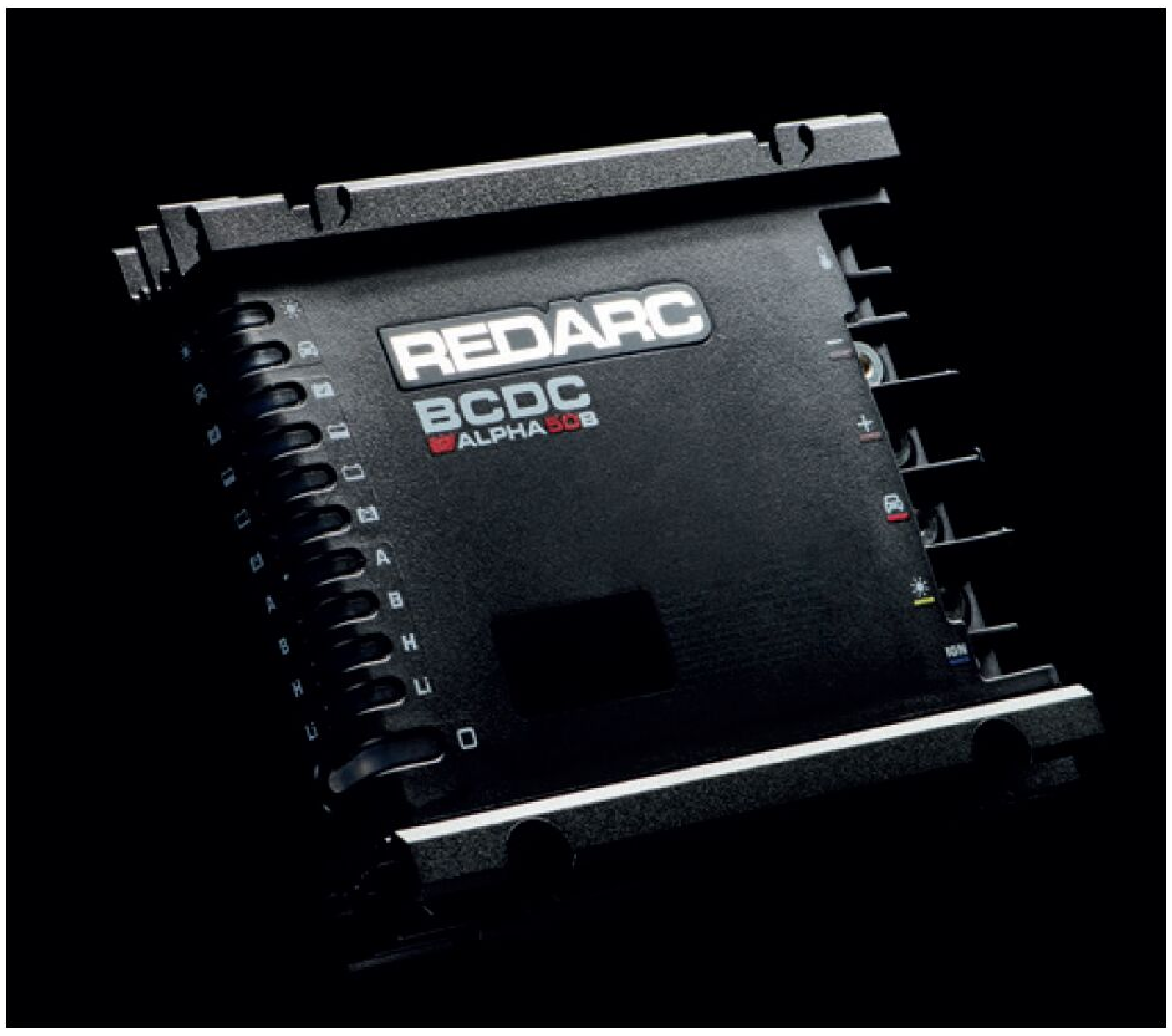
This charger also includes built-in alternator overload protection. With configurable input current limits, you have full control over how the charger interacts with your system, making it a great choice for modern vehicles – including hybrids, which have more complex electrical systems. The BCDC Alpha also includes REDARC's Green Power Priority, which prioritises solar power over alternator charge to ensure it's not overdrawing on your alternator.

Available in 25 amps and 50 amps, and compatible with all 12-volt automotive battery types, the BCDC Alpha is built to handle even the toughest conditions. Featuring IP67/69K-rated dust and moisture protection, it is engineered to perform reliably in the harshest environments. Whether you're navigating through mud, sand or extreme weather conditions, the BCDC Alpha ensures your power system remains operational and protected, making it ideal for those who enjoy off-road adventures and unpredictable environments.

Installation of the BCDC Alpha is a breeze thanks to the push-button interface, screw terminals, and input current–limiting features. REDARC also offers a range of compatible wiring kits and vehicle-specific mounting brackets to make setting up your off-road power system even easier.

Proudly designed, tested and manufactured in Australia, the BCDC Alpha is built to withstand the country's harshest environments. It's the perfect addition to any vehicle's power management system, ensuring you stay charged and never get stranded on your adventures.

To learn more about how the BCDC Alpha can power your next journey, visit redarcelectronics.com/au/bcdc-alpha.



7:54
4G
Battery Recovery
SUCCESS
EXIT
Current
0.0A
AUSTRALIAN MADE

REDARC

ALWAYS CHARGED,
NEVER STRANDED.

NEW

BCDC ALPHA

Charge smarter and go further with the next generation of battery charging technology.

- The pushbutton interface and screw connections allow for simple installation.
- The only DC-DC charger that offers start battery charging and recovery.
- Configurable input limits to control your power and protect your electrical system.
- Stay informed and monitor battery status with the RedVision App.

REDARCELECTRONICS.COM/BCDC-ALPHA

Embracing the unknown

BY LUCY MAXWELL

As our caravan rolled onto the open road of the Australian highway, excitement mixed with a hint of nervousness in our family of four – myself (Lucy), Kevin, nine-year-old Sophia, and five-year-old Oakleigh. With no prior experience of long-term travel – or any caravanning experience, for that matter – leaving behind the familiarity of our first home and tattoo business in the Whitsundays (which we had called home for six years), we embarked on an adventure of a lifetime, driven by the desire for a more relaxed lifestyle and creating lifelong core memories that each of us will never forget. We came to the realisation of what success looks like for us. Being successful looks different for everyone. Success for us used to be trying to build up our company and working nonstop to make good profits. With that came long days, stressful and sleepless nights, and not giving our children the attention they deserved as we were working around the clock – running your own business often means you have no set work hours. We did all this to set ourselves up for the future, but the reality is that none of this is guaranteed – what is guaranteed is living in the moment!

For Kevin, a professional tattoo artist who specialises in realistic tattoos with 13 years of experience, the decision to sell our business wasn't just about trading one job for another; it was about reclaiming our time and prioritising what truly mattered: our family. With the hope of working smarter, not harder, Kevin planned to operate out of professional tattoo studios along our route, blending his strong passion for the art of tattooing with the freedom of being present with his family and the open road.

As I took on the role of homeschooling our daughters, we embraced the opportunity and freedom to learn beyond the confines of a classroom. From exploring historical landmarks to witnessing nature's wonders, every experience became a lesson in itself, fostering a love for learning that goes far beyond textbooks. As a mother, it is a great privilege to be able to provide our children a unique educational plan, teaching them the essentials but also being able to focus on things that spark their individual interests.

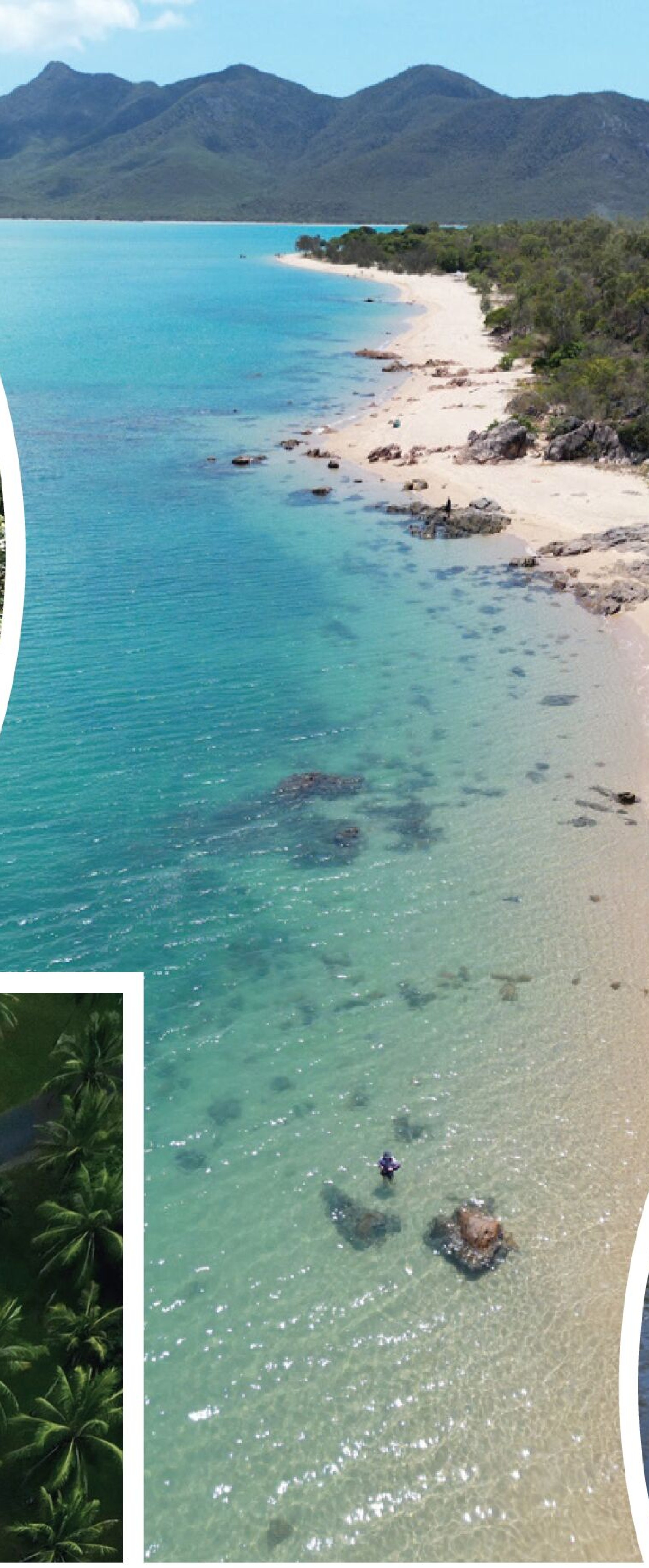
Among the uncertainties of life on the road, we found peace in the simple pleasures of family time and shared experiences. Kevin's new-found passion for barbecue and smoked meats added a delicious dimension to our journey, allowing him time to explore new techniques and recipes that are now gaining support in the barbecue industry.

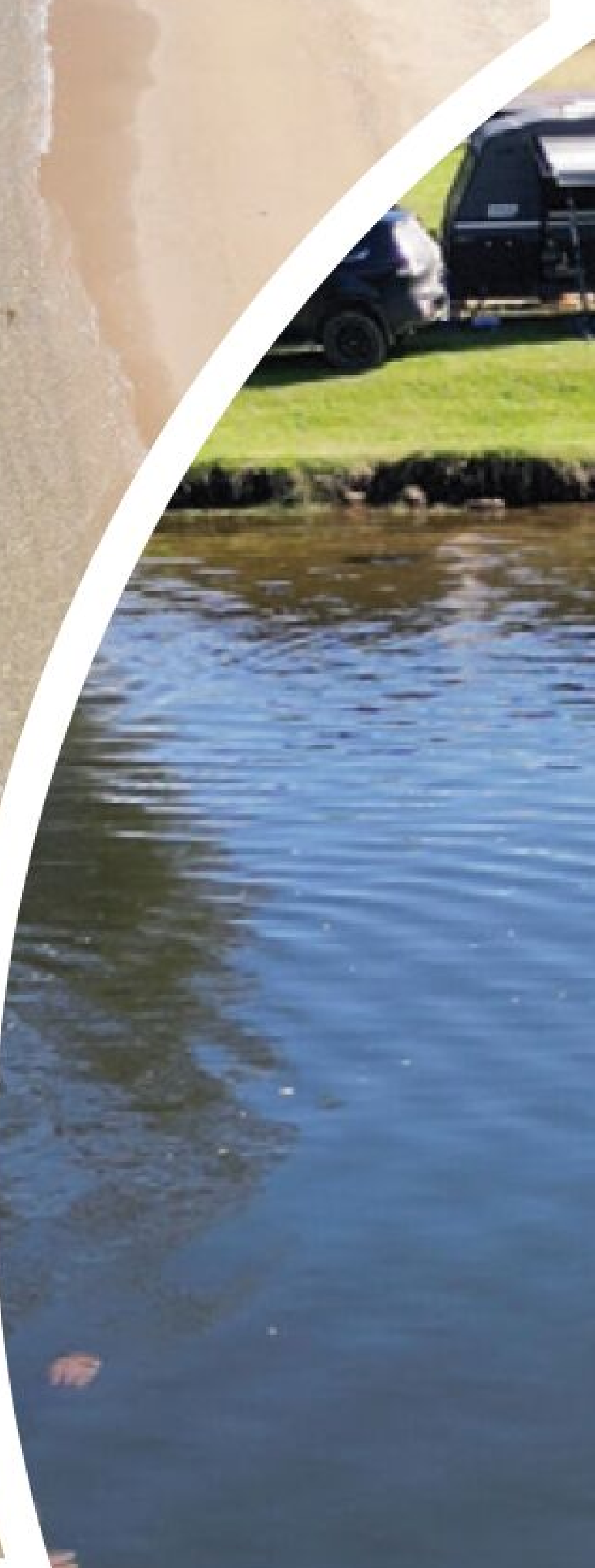
While our transition to full-time travel wasn't without its challenges, we discovered the beauty of embracing the unknown and stepping outside of our comfort zone. From navigating unfamiliar roads to adapting to life in a compact caravan, each obstacle became an opportunity for growth and bonding as a family.

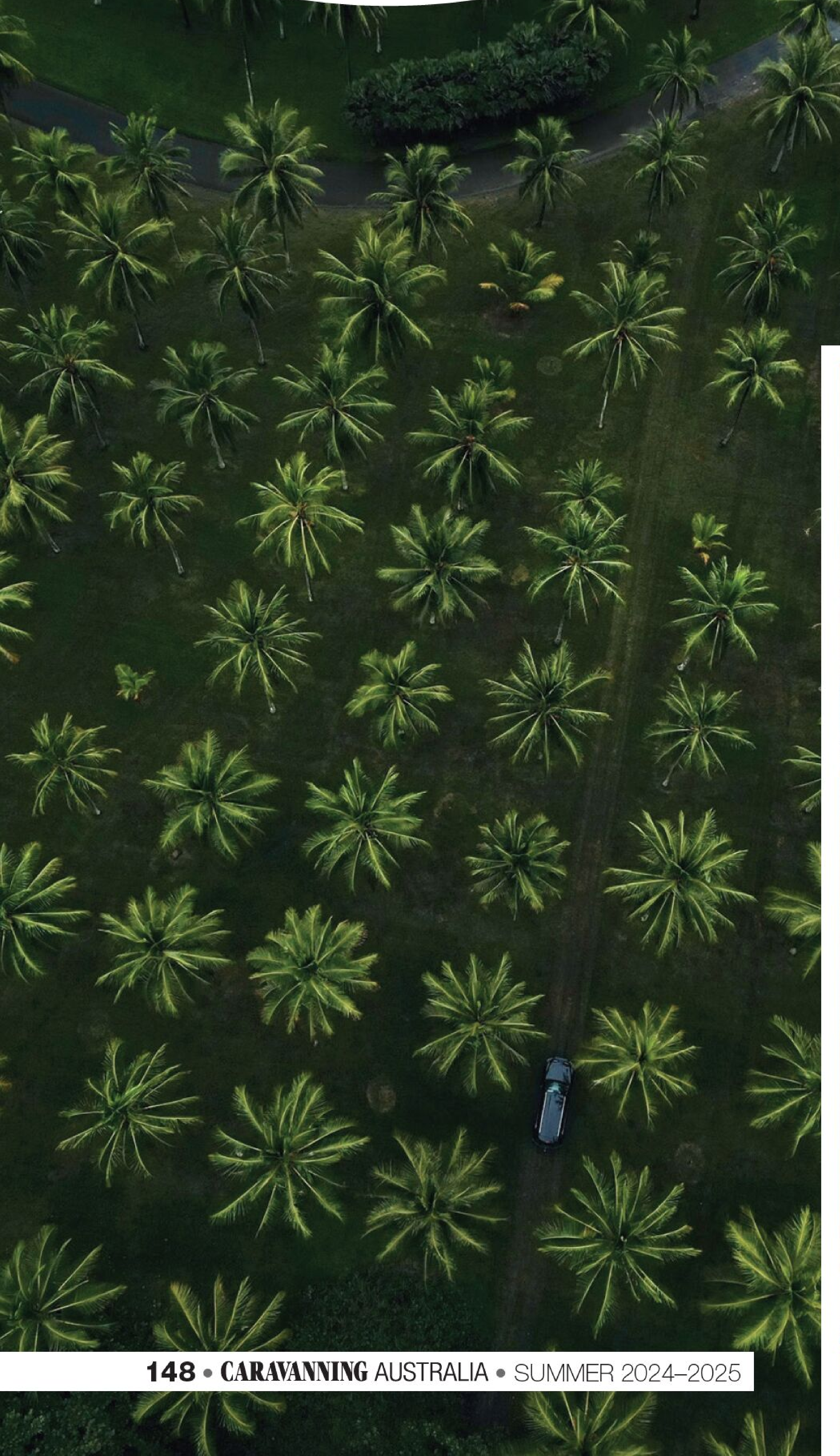
While our lifestyle may not be for everyone, we believe in the transformative power of travel to broaden horizons and foster connections. Through our journey, we hope to inspire others to step outside their comfort zone, embrace new experiences, and create lasting memories with their loved ones.

As we continue to roam the vast and beautiful landscapes of Australia, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to live life on our own terms, to embrace this stage in our life and say 'yes' to as many opportunities and experiences that we can. As we encourage others to embark on their own adventures, we are reminded that true fulfilment lies not in the destination, but in the journey itself. ↙

Follow Lucy and Kevin's adventures on Instagram @justbeingthemaxwells and @kevinmaxwelltattoos.







VH-HGU

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